



A turbaned Mayor Teddy Kollek tries out a stuffed elephant as he and conductor Zubin Mehta (right) attend yesterday's opening of the Indian Exhibition at the Israel Museum. (Story on page 4.)

(Elihu Harari)

Druse villagers vow to resist authorities

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEIT JANN. — Some 2,000 residents of this Druse village "stood guard" yesterday at the resurrected illegal tent encampment in the heart of Mount Meron Nature Reserve.

The villagers, joined by scores of sympathizers from other Druse settlements, warned that they would resist any further attempts by police and Nature Reserves Authority wardens to dismantle the camp.

Twenty-three policemen and Border Policemen and two NRA rangers were injured Monday when they were attacked by hundreds of villagers after removing tents and other equipment from the 250-dunam camp site.

A forest ranger's hut was ransacked and 20 vehicles belonging to the police and NRA were wrecked, half of them completely.

Beit Jann residents said six of their people were injured in the fighting and had to receive hospital treatment.

Druse spiritual leader Sheikh Amin Tarif is to meet today with government leaders, including Foreign Minister Peres, Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin, Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Energy Minister Moshe Shalal, to try to find

a solution to the long-standing conflict.

The atmosphere at the village yesterday was quiet but tense. Hundreds of residents have left their homes for the reconstructed tent camp, some five kilometres from the village.

Police watched yesterday as dozens of vehicles drove back and forth along dirt tracks between the village and the "illegal" settlement bringing equipment and supplies, but took no steps to intervene.

NRA officials charged that in the afternoon villagers brought in heavy equipment to construct a more permanent road between the village and the camp.

They maintained that the road and the camp, contrary to the villagers' claims, was on state-owned land. The authority called on the police to continue the operations started on Monday and enforce the law in the area. Until last night, however, no action was taken.

Meanwhile, a special team has been appointed to investigate Monday's violent attacks on police and NRA wardens, which were described by Northern District Police Commander Levi Shaul as a "pogrom." The Jerusalem Post learned (Continued on back page)

Chernobyl six on trial

CHERNOBYL. — Six officials accused of allowing unsanctioned experiments that caused history's worst nuclear accident went on trial yesterday in a makeshift courtroom in the still-evacuated town of Chernobyl.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant's former director and five men who worked for him were accused of violating "the rules of technical security" at the plant, according to the presiding judge.

Only three defendants, including the ex-director, Viktor Brukhchanov, former chief Nikolai Fomin, and his former assistant, Anatoly Dyatlov, had been named earlier as defendants.

Relatives of people who died in

the massive explosion and fire on April 26, 1986, and plant workers were among those attending the trial. The judge explained there would be a second proceeding to determine personal losses suffered by Soviet citizens.

As people arrived in the courtroom, white-gowned technicians checked their clothing for traces of radiation. A Soviet official told Western reporters invited to cover the opening of the trial that radiation levels in the town were now 0.1 milliroentgen, four times higher than the area's background level before the accident but within international safety levels.

Officials said the trial is expected to last three weeks.

North assumed Reagan knew

WASHINGTON. — Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North testified yesterday that he never discussed with President Ronald Reagan the diversion of Iranian arms sale profits to Nicaraguan rebels, but that he assumed Reagan knew and approved of the secret operation.

The key operative in the illegal operation, testifying under a grant of limited immunity, said the president told him in a November 25 telephone call that he "just didn't know" about the diversion.

His testimony before the House and Senate Iran-Contra investigating committees was carried live by the major U.S. television networks.

North, under tense and contentious questioning by House committee counsel John Nields, defended the shredding of secret and sensitive documents as necessary to protect covert U.S. operations.

"I shredded or burned documents almost every day," he said. "I willingly admit that."

He said destruction of secret documents relating to clandestine activities was necessary because "the president needs to have the ability to dissociate himself from these covert operations."

But he said the piles of documents he personally shredded on and before November 21, 1986, when the diversion of funds to the Contras was revealed by Attorney General Richard Meese, included none — to the best of his recollection — that carried the initial approval of the president.

North said he sought the approval of his superiors for all he did. But as for direct contact with the president, North said "I never raised it with him, and he never raised it with me during my entire tenure."

"Throughout the conduct of my entire tenure I assumed that the president was aware of what I was doing and had, through my superiors, approved it."

He said, however, that none of his superiors spoke of direct presidential approval.

North also said his boss, Adm. John Poindexter, who was Reagan's national security adviser, said that the president didn't know funds were being channelled to the rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist government.

Reagan has denied any previous knowledge of the diversion.

North said he helped concoct a false story that the U.S. believed Israel sent Iran oil-drilling equipment rather than Hawk missiles in November 1985 because of fears of endangering U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

North said he did so because the U.S. was trying to dissociate itself from the Hawk deal

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)



Lt. Col. Oliver North being sworn in for his first day of public testimony yesterday.

(Reuter)

Kessar ups the ante in pay negotiations

By AVI TEMKIN

and JEFF BLACK

Jerusalem Post Staff

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar yesterday raised the stakes in the labour federation's fight with the Treasury with a threat to entangle the government with protracted and potentially expensive wage talks with each one of the public-sector unions.

Kessar issued this threat after a meeting last night with Finance Minister Moshe Nissim in Jerusalem that failed to break the deadlock in the wage negotiations.

But Nissim indicated he would not agree to such negotiations, telling reporters that under the law, the Histadrut represents the public sector workers and that negotiations would only be held with the workers' representatives.

The talks have been deadlocked over the Treasury's opposition to an across-the-board wage rise in the public sector and a shorter working week.

Meanwhile, Haim Haberfeld, the Histadrut trade union department head, who was also present at last night's meeting, vowed that Sunday's 24-hour strike in the public sector would go ahead, despite Nissim's call for a delay.

Today civil service workers in government offices will strike for two hours starting at 8 a.m. This will affect several services to the public including post offices, the courts, hospitals and railways.

Last night's meeting got off on the wrong foot when Kessar learned that the Treasury's chief wage negotiator, Hillel Duda'el had told reporters earlier in the day that Nissim would present no new ideas at the meeting and would reject the Histadrut's demands.

On entering Nissim's office, Kessar declared that he had hesitated



Yisrael Kessar

over whether to come because, under the circumstances, there wasn't any point in meeting with the finance minister. He only came, he said, out of respect for Nissim.

Nissim had met with the representatives of public-sector yesterday morning and insisted that there would be no compromise on the issue of across-the-board wage rises and a shorter working week.

Kessar said after the meeting with Nissim that since the Treasury was so strongly opposed to across-the-board pay rises, each union would now negotiate separately with its employers without any central framework for the talks. He stressed, however, that the Histadrut would not retreat from its demand for a shorter work week.

Kessar said he still hoped a compromise could be found soon to prevent damage to the economy. He insisted that the Histadrut was acting responsibly and stressed that he hoped new ideas would come to the fore to end the impasse.

Nissim and Duda'el for their part did not rule out any further meetings with the Histadrut's top leadership. They denied that the labour federation had announced during the meeting that from Sunday onwards there would only be separate negotiations.

Cliff-hanger likely over Who's a Jew

By MENACHEM SHALEV

and ASHER WALLFISH

Jerusalem Post Reporters

Today's Knesset vote on two laws that are at the heart of the "Who is a Jew" controversy was considered too close to call by politicians in both Labour and Likud last night.

The vote of Liberal MK Sarah Doron is seen as the key to the outcome of the vote on the amendment to the Law of Return, sponsored by the National Religious Party and Morasha, and on the Shas-sponsored amendment to the Change of Religious Communities Ordinance.

Should Doron vote with Labour against the bill, as she has intimated she might, some of her Liberal colleagues are expected to join her and refrain from supporting the bills, thus spelling their doom. Likud politicians said last night that in such

cases "steps would be taken" against Doron.

Senior Labour Party sources said last night that passage of the bills on a preliminary reading would not mean Labour's immediate departure from the coalition. But it would "bring the coalition nearer to the end." They said that Labour would not be able to stay in the government while laws that will cause an unprecedented rupture with U.S. Jewry are being legislated.

Labour said that the party's institutions would be convened immediately if one of the bills were passed today. Such a development is expected to strengthen those in the party advocating a unilateral departure from the coalition.

If the proposals are defeated by a narrow margin, Shas is not expected to immediately bolt the coalition and join Labour's drive for early elections. The party is first expected to (Continued on back page)

Peres: Soviets won't impede peace parley

By ASHER WALLFISH

Post Knesset Correspondent

Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday that if the Soviet Union discovered that the absence of diplomatic relations with Israel was an impediment towards an international Middle East peace conference, the Soviets would not prevent the conference being convened for that reason and would solve the problem.

[The peace conference, as envisaged by Peres, would start with an opening session to be convened by the UN with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council.]

Addressing the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Peres said he had this information from Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who was so informed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their last meeting.

Peres added that the Soviet Union was in no hurry to see an international conference get off the ground.

That was because under present timing, the Soviets, believe they can create a new pattern in the Middle East without taking Israel's interests into account.

Peres said that the U.S. and the Soviet Union seem likely to reach a partial agreement for the Middle East before the end of 1987.

Likud MK Michael Eitan yesterday accused U.S. ambassador Thomas Pickering of behaving improperly and in a manner not befitting his diplomatic functions by intervening in Israel's domestic affairs over the issue of the international conference and with regard to the government's moves in the fight against terror.

Eitan told The Jerusalem Post that Pickering "went behind Prime Minister Shamir's back" in discussions and moves related to the international conference.

Eitan said that "Pickering's preaching showed insensitivity to the security situation."

Unifil explains how Shi'ites entered position

Jerusalem Post Reporter

ROSH HANIKRA. — Unifil officials

said yesterday that Israeli artillery shelling near one of its positions on Monday had thwarted attempts to evacuate Shi'ite gunmen who had entered the position by force, intending to fire at the IDF from there.

The Unifil account came as a response to criticism from sources in the IDF's Northern Command that the peacekeeping force had failed to maintain sovereignty in the area and let terrorists use its position to attack Israeli troops.

The position, manned by 10 to 12

Nepalese soldiers, is situated near Jebel Taher Harma between Ya'atar and Sadihin.

Several times Monday morning small groups of armed men tried unsuccessfully, to enter the position, Unifil spokesman Timor Goksell said.

The situation changed dramatically at 3:30 p.m. when according to Israeli accounts, terrorists were spotted on the hilltop. Assault helicopters attacked the site and heavy artillery joined the action. Seven gunmen were killed there.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Shamir unlikely to act against S. Africa

By BENNY MORRIS

Prime Minister Shamir is extremely unlikely to support serious trade sanctions against South Africa — such as a curtailment of coal imports — when the matter comes up for decision in the inner cabinet today or next Wednesday, well-placed sources said yesterday.

Referring to a list of proposed sanctions submitted last month to the prime minister by a team headed by Foreign Ministry political director-general Yossi Beilin, the sources said that Shamir is likely to support "declarative rather than substantive sanctions."

Shamir's approach will be "very cautious" and will, "above all, take account of the South African Jewish community's interest — that these should not be damaged," said the sources.

The sources predicted that "a number of the Beilin proposals" — which are called in the document "steps" rather than "sanctions" — will be passed by the ministers, "including the ban on Israeli law from importing gold, but a declara-

tion of such a ban will have a declaratory effect." The sources said that there probably would also be a declaration of imposition of cultural and sports sanctions, and a ban on visits by Israeli officials to South Africa, with a loophole for exceptions.

The sources said that Shamir would not support a ban on importing South African coal, "and no European country has imposed such a ban either."

The sources added that the sanctions decided upon and announced by the inner cabinet last March — of not entering into new defence contracts or renewing previous contracts with South Africa — "hurt us a lot."

The sources said that "one of the major reasons for the distress of Israel Aircraft Industries, when it considers its future, possibly without the Lavi, is the non-renewal of these contracts, which were worth a great deal of money."

Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that

they have heard nothing about anger or possible counter-measures by South Africa as a result of the Beilin proposals.

But the South African Embassy, in an unusual step, yesterday issued a statement to the press implying that Pretoria would view further Israeli sanctions as "a provocative measure."

The embassy press release stated: "It is not unlikely that steps which may be taken by Israel to favour a particular section of the South African population to the disadvantage of others may be interpreted, in some quarters, as a provocative measure which should be avoided."

The embassy statement denied that the embassy had been the source of recent reports in the Israeli press which described in exaggerated fashion the sanctions the Beilin committee was recommending.

The embassy also denied that "it had made threats to the effect that the adoption of steps to reduce [Israeli-South African] ties is likely to promote anti-Semitic reactions."

Gaza killers convicted

GAZA (Itim). — Two terrorists, including the commander of the Islamic Jihad terror group in the Gaza Strip, were convicted in the military court here yesterday of murdering three Israelis and trying to kill a fourth. Sentence is to be passed on Sunday.

Islamic Jihad leader Abdul Rahman Alkik, 24, and Islamic Jihad member Khalid Ja'idi, 22, both of Rafiah, were found guilty of killing two Ashkelon residents and Salah Ibrahim, 44, of Abu Gosh, whom they had mistaken for a Jew.

Haim Azran, 36, was murdered while shopping in the market in Gaza, and Yisrael Kitro, 41, was killed while he was having his taxi repaired in the town.

A third terrorist, Asad Siftawi, 23, of Gaza, was also to have stood trial, but he escaped from prison recently along with four other terrorists and is still at large.

Arab-American tourists 'hassled' — passports held at airport

By JOEL GREENBERG

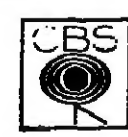
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Palestinian-Americans entering Israel at Ben-Gurion Airport to visit relatives are having their passports and tickets held and are required to post a bond of up to \$5,000 as a guarantee of their departure, U.S. consular sources said yesterday.

The sources said that about two dozen such cases had been reported to the American consulate in Jerusalem in recent weeks, and the rate of such incidents could be higher than last summer, when more than 100 Palestinian-Americans reported that their travel documents had been held. The sources said that there could be more cases of confiscation which have gone unreported.

American consular officials view the policy as discriminatory, and say it is applied to U.S. citizens of Palestinian origin, and not to Jewish Americans or U.S. nationals of other ethnic backgrounds. They say they have sought explanations from the Foreign Ministry's consular department, and have been told that the practice is meant to ensure the departure of the visitors, who could otherwise overstay their visas.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the action was linked to the tightening of Interior Ministry controls on illegal aliens. Interior Ministry officials in the past have denied that the policy is directed specifically at Palestinian-Americans, and maintained that the measures are taken against all foreigners suspected of planning to overstay their visas.



CBS Records Israel
Welcomes

SAMANTHA FOX
to Israel

We mourn the loss of

Dr. GEORGE S. WISE

and extend our condolences to Florence.

Director and Staff of
The Florence and George Wise
Observatory
Tel Aviv University

1-028-15-114

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	1.7.87	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	14	17	24	Cloudy
BIRMINGHAM	15	18	21	Cloudy
BUSINESS	15	18	21	Cloudy
CHICAGO	15	18	21	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	15	18	21	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	15	18	21	Cloudy
GENEVA	15	18	21	Cloudy
HELSINKI	15	18	21	Cloudy
HONG KONG	15	18	21	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	15	18	21	Cloudy
LONDON	15	18	21	Cloudy
MADRID	15	18	21	Cloudy
MONTREAL	15	18	21	Cloudy
NEW YORK	15	18	21	Cloudy
OSLO	15	18	21	Cloudy
PARIS	15	18	21	Cloudy
ROME	15	18	21	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	15	18	21	Cloudy
TOKYO	15	18	21	Cloudy
TORONTO	15	18	21	Cloudy
VIENNA	15	18	21	Cloudy
ZURICH	15	18	21	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
Jerusalem	23	17-21	26
Colan	49	16-27	28
Nahariya	—	—	—
Safed	—	—	—
Haifa Port	95	21-29	29
Tiberias	40	21-34	35
Nazareth	—	—	—
Afula	53	19-30	31
Sharon	52	18-27	28
Tel Aviv	63	22-28	28
B-G Airport	52	20-29	29
Jericho	40	22-35	35
Qana	66	22-28	28
Beersheba	45	18-31	32
Eilat	24	26-39	39

'No comment' on Hungary report

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Foreign Ministry officials refused all comment yesterday about press reports that the ministry's deputy director general, Yishayahu Avig, had flown to Vienna to discuss with Hungarian officials the possibility of restoring diplomatic relations, at a low level, between the two countries.

The talks are likely to focus on the opening of interest sections in Tel Aviv and Budapest and the appointment of *de facto* commercial attaches with the aim of increasing trade.

Last year Poland opened an interest section in Tel Aviv, and Hungary was thought to be the likeliest East bloc country to follow suit. Officials in Jerusalem believe that Warsaw and Budapest have been given an explicit green light by Moscow for this course.

Navon pledge on school integration

Post Knesset Correspondent
Education Minister Yitzhak Navon said yesterday that his ministry would not approve any educational programme or proposal going counter to the principle of school integration.

Speaking in the Knesset Education Committee, he said: "The Ministry has not and will not abandon its aim of attaining integration between pupils of different backgrounds."

Navon spoke scathingly of "false reports" in the media.

He said the ministry's director-general, Dr. Shimon Shoshani, had drawn up a new proposal to improve the level and the functioning of the school system, which did not entail watering down the principle of integration. This had been brought up tentatively before a senior forum inside the ministry and more such discussions would be held on it through the summer, he said.

Transsexual is suspected of blackmail

By JONATHAN KARP
For The Jerusalem Post
TEL AVIV. — A well-known Tel Aviv transsexual is expected to be charged today with blackmailing a man with whom she had sexual relations.

Police said yesterday they had arrested the accused Monday following three-week undercover investigation led by Deputy Superintendent Feivel Lavon of the Tel Aviv central unit. The name of the transsexual cannot be published until formally charged, while the name of the man who filed the complaint was banned from publication following a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court order issued last night.

A 34-year-old woman photographer from Holon, who was also

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Likud joins Labour to bar Kahane from five sessions

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

Kach MK Meir Kahane called the Likud's bluff in the Knesset plenum yesterday, and lost, as the right-wing partner in the national unity government voted, almost *en bloc*, to bar him from five consecutive plenum sessions, as the House Committee had ruled.

The stormy Knesset meeting attracted a close to full turn-out of Alignment MKs, a rather thinner Likud attendance and packed cross-benches.

But despite Speaker Shlomo Hillel's long preamble, detailing the House Committee's imposition of sanctions against Kahane for his insulting behaviour to the Knesset and its speaker, and Kahane's right of appeal to the House, it was voting arithmetic that was preoccupying the MKs.

The Likud's Michael Bitan even hinted from the floor that it was this that had prompted Hillel to put the Kahane issue on yesterday's agenda.

In Labour there was the clear consciousness that Kahane's vote could well prove crucial to the right today when three controversial private member's bills are scheduled to come before the plenum.

The same consideration was also bothering the Likud.

Hillel explained the several weeks delay in permitting Kahane his appeal by recalling that only last Wednesday had Kahane reaffirmed

his allegiance to the Knesset. Prior to that he had been barred for some weeks for refusing to make the declaration in the approved manner.

The speaker put to the vote Eitan's request that the House adjourn to permit further discussion by the House Committee. And the House, in a state of noisy excitement, with the left and the right exchanging charges of trickery, voted to continue.

But Kahane was not in the chamber, though Hillel said he had been given ample notice that the House would hear him.

Thus, Hillel argued, since there was to be no verbal appeal, there was no need for a verbal reply and the House could vote, as provided for in the House rules, whether to accept Kahane's appeal.

"That's quite absurd!" Transport Minister Haim Corfu, the senior Likud minister present, called out.

In a legalistic argument, Corfu urged that since Kahane was not present, he could not be said to have appealed. All the earlier session of the House Committee had decided, he said, was to give Kahane leave to appeal. It had not ruled when that appeal should be heard.

The implication was clear to all: leave the matter alone until Kahane does appear, whether during today's scheduled votes or subsequently.

But Hillel, firmly asserting that it was the House president, and not the House Committee, that deter-

mined the agenda, and repeating that Kahane had in no way been short-changed, insisted on calling the vote.

"Who," he asked, "is in favour of accepting Kahane's appeal?"

There was a hush in the House. Not a hand was raised.

"Who is against accepting the appeal?" Hillel asked.

A forest of hands shot up and Hillel almost forgot to call for abstentions as MKs rose to their feet in the start of a mass exodus.

But it was widely noted that the Likud's Benny Shalita and Shas's Shimon Ben-Shimon abstained.

In practical terms, barring Kahane from the coming five sessions may well today hold up or defeat legislation on procedures for recognizing conversions and on presidential clemency for the Jewish underground, private member's bills that the Likud and the religious parties are pushing.

Pardonably, the failure of this legislation may well also keep the shaky coalition together, as Shas is squashed and the Likud let off its commitments to that party quite honourably.

There is the possibility that today's scheduled agenda could be stymied by the High Court. Kahane last night said he would seek a High Court interim injunction against the holding of today's session, since he claims Hillel's vote call was unfair. "He has a medical certificate to prove he was sick," an aide said.

Threat by settlers to topple coalition

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Settlement leaders in the territories yesterday backed a Tehiya Party ultimatum and warned that if the cabinet failed to decide within 10 days on new settlements, they would lobby their Knesset allies to bring down the government.

Tehiya has already served notice that unless a decision on new settlements is reached in two weeks, it will vote, with Labour, for new elections.

After a meeting yesterday at the settlement of Ofra, the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District issued a unanimous statement demanding the immediate establishment of six settlements in accordance with a plan drawn up by the council. "If within 10 days the prime minister does not submit the issue for a decision by the cabinet, the government will have lost its right to exist, and action will have to be taken through the parties to dissolve the Knesset," said council secretary Oniel Shmeller.

Minister-without-Portfolio Yitzhak Moda'i, who met with the council leaders during a tour of the West Bank, said government funds could be found for construction of an additional two or three settlements. Prime Minister Shamir has in the past cited budgetary constraints and political difficulties in the cabinet as reasons for the government's failure to establish settlements.

Police acted after Budapest visit

Foreign pressmen protest at questioning of photographer

Jerusalem Post Staff

The Foreign Press Association issued a statement yesterday strongly objecting to actions taken by the Israeli police against one of its members.

The statement referred to the summoning by police of news photographer Andre Brummann following his trip to Budapest last month to cover a meeting between an Israeli delegation and members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Brummann, a German citizen, is an Israeli temporary resident. He was in Budapest on assignment for *Time* magazine.

When he arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport from Hungary, he was approached by a plainclothes detective who allegedly said, "Andre, we want your film." Brummann protested. A uniformed policeman, later identified as Even Chen, then said, "We need your film as evidence."

But Brummann had sent the film, which contained photos of the Israelis and PLO members, to *Time* in New York before leaving Budapest. When he presented police with a letter to this effect, he was allowed to leave. Later he was asked to go to police headquarters in Ramle; this was followed by a summons to appear there at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Jay Bushinski, acting chairman of the FPA, said that Brummann was receiving legal advice and added that he had the association's full support. "We will stand by him, as friends and as legal advisers, till the end," he said.

The FPA statement called the police action "a flagrant violation of the freedom of the press and an unwarranted attempt to force a journalist to participate in a police investigation. Such practices cannot be condoned in a democratic society such as Israel," it said.

In addition to blackmail, the transsexual is expected to be charged with possession of drugs and illegal possession of foreign currency.

They demanded tens of thousands of shekels from the man to prevent the material from being revealed. The police suspect that this third party was either the accused or someone working for her.

Following Monday's arrest, detectives conducted a search of the transsexual's apartment and found \$1,500 in traveller's checks, \$3,100 in cash, 2,500 French francs, NIS 2,500, 10 tear gas containers and a third of a bag of hashish.

The transsexual has been detained for the past two days in a special cell in the Abu Kabir lock-up, the police said.

Kidnapped Gaza boy found safe

By BRADLEY BURSTON
GAZA. — Three-year-old Mohammed a-Naji, kidnapped a week ago from his home here, was found dazed but safe yesterday morning in a citrus grove after a search by police, army and local volunteers.

Police had cloaked the investigation in secrecy, but yesterday revealed that the alleged kidnappers had demanded 50,000 Jordanian dinars (NIS 2,350,000) for the boy's release. A wiretap led detectives to an Ashkelon public telephone, from which two men answering descriptions by witnesses to the kidnapping allegedly contacted Mohammed's family Monday afternoon. Police then chased the two suspects to the Erez checkpoint in Northern Gaza, where they were arrested.

On Monday night the suspects, two brothers from Gaza, aged 36 and 25, reportedly told investigators that the boy had been hidden in a grove near the large Jebalya refugee camp. The search, aided by an IDF helicopter, continued until dawn yesterday, when the boy was found by a 60-year-old volunteer.

Gaza police yesterday praised the restraint and cooperation of the Naji family in keeping the ransom demand and details of the investigation secret. The boy's father, mother, grandmother and uncle appeared on Israeli Television's *Mabat* news programme Monday night to "bitterly complain" about police inaction in the case. "They gave a truly inspired performance," Gaza police investigations Bureau chief Avraham Barzilai said yesterday. "Even the interviewer was taken in."

Alluding to a plan to drill a deep well near Bethlehem, Siniora criticized Israel for its "unilateral" action. It is feared that the project will deplete Arab sources of water on the West Bank. "At least 80 per cent should be allocated to Palestinians," he said. "We are arriving at the point where we won't have enough water to carry on daily life. Water is part of sovereignty."

In an interview before his speech, Siniora said he would decide whether to run for mayor of Jerusalem in mid-August.

NORTH

(Continued from Page One)

after the Iranians complained the weapons were not adequate for their needs.

North added many others in the U.S. government were aware the public White House account was untrue.

He referred to a chronology of the scandal prepared in November 1986 that said in part: "We were assured at the time that the Israelis were going to try oil-drilling parts as an incentive since we had expressed so much displeasure over the earlier Tow (anti-tank) missile shipment."

The U.S. and Israel were at the time involved in supplying weapons to Teheran in hopes of securing the release of hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.



Mum's the word. Minister Ezer Weizman with East Jerusalem editor Hanna Siniora at a meeting organized in Tel Aviv yesterday by the International Centre for Peace. (M. Daniel/Media)

Call 'ceasefire on terror,' Weizman urges Palestinians

By KEN SCHACHTER
TEL AVIV. — Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman yesterday called on Palestinians to declare a terrorism "ceasefire," as he joined the Egyptian ambassador and a Palestinian newspaper editor in lamenting the high economic and moral cost of failure to seize the initiative for peace.

Turning to *Al Fajr* editor Hanna Siniora, at a forum held here by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, Weizman said: "Hanna, cease fire. It's difficult to talk to Israelis about direct talks when a woman loses a leg on a Haifa beach. My message to Hanna Siniora is, 'Please, no bombs in the sand.'"

Police are still seeking the person who planted the bomb a few weeks ago.

For his part, Siniora deplored the "dumping" of Israeli produce at below-market prices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the diversion of water from Arab land to Jewish settlements.

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In an interview before his speech, Siniora said he would decide whether to run for mayor of Jerusalem in mid-August.

Weizman, meanwhile, pointed to the *de facto* peace between Israel and Jordan that has allowed the countries to share the Jordan Valley's water resources, transforming a Jordanian area that was parched in the late 1960s into a productive agricultural region.

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said that the failure to find a political solution has been very costly.

"Enormously expensive" weapons have compounded Egypt's problems of overpopulation and slumping revenues from the Suez Canal and oil exports, Bassiouny said.

Turning to Israel, he cited a stagnant economy, latent inflationary trends and increasing dependence on foreign aid as the price of military readiness. Siniora noted that Israel's tourism industry would suffer "if the region erupts again."

"This state of war is killing the economies of both our peoples," Siniora said.

An international peace conference, however, would open new vistas for regional development, Bassiouny said.

Weizman said the final status of the West Bank and Gaza have yet to be determined, and called the Green Line "an armistice line...not an international border."

"Someone asked me where the border will be after the treaty," he recounted. "I said that it will probably run through the kitchen between meat and dairy."

Nissim says Lavi is 'great threat to state budget'

Post Knesset Correspondent

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said yesterday that the Lavi warplane project was "a very great threat to the state budget."

Speaking before a sub-committee of the Economic Committee responsible for exports, Nissim said the government's problem was that it lacked a proper scale of priorities.

Any spending beyond the limits in the state budget would threaten the national export drive, he said. The call to allocate more funds to the Lavi project could cause such over-spending, Nissim said.

The call for wage increases also threatened exports, he said. Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman yesterday said that when he was defence minister in 1980, the warplane for which he won cabinet approval was "a small Lavi with a light engine."

Weizman told the Knesset State Control Committee that the plane

had proposed then would have cost \$700m. to develop, and that the cost of each plane would have worked out to \$7m., without military and electronic accessories.

Had Israel Aircraft Industries built and sold 450 planes, he said, and assuming that each plane was fully equipped, the final cost would have been \$11m. per Lavi.

Weizman said that after he left the defence ministry he learnt that prime minister Menachem Begin, as acting defence minister, had decided on his own to have a bigger engine installed in the Lavi, which meant a far larger and costlier plane.

In 1985, Weizman said, he urged the cabinet to drop the Lavi project. At the suggestion of Ran Cohen (Citizens Rights Movement), committee chairman David Liba'i said he would look into getting a statement from Begin on the matter.

Begin has shunned all public activity since he resigned in 1983.

U.S. hostage 'admits' CIA link

BEIRUT. — Kidnapped U.S. journalist Charles Glass said he was a spy for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in a videotape sent yesterday to a Western news agency here.

"I am Charles Glass. Many of you know me as a journalist, but few know the truth," said the reporter, who was kidnapped on June 17 at Ouzai, a Syrian-controlled southern entrance to Beirut.

"I used the press as a cover for my main job with the CIA, in all my different positions and means, to reach my goal," the 36-year-old journalist said in his five-minute message.

The videotape was the first proof that Glass was still alive. It showed him wearing a dark blue track suit. He had dark circles under his eyes and a few days' growth of beard.

"I collect information for the benefit of the CIA, and I made secret missions they ordered me to do," he went on, adding that he was not the only spy using the press as a cover.

Glass was kidnapped with Ali Usayran, son of Lebanese Defence Minister Adel Usayran, and his driver. Usayran and his driver were released a week later.

In an Arabic statement accompanying the videotape, the Organization for the Defence of Free Peoples, which claimed it carried out the kidnapping, said it was issuing "the first results of the questioning of the American spy."

The group, previously unknown, added that Glass was being questioned and would "remain a captive until all the American-Zionist schemes were revealed."

Glass ended the tape by addressing his wife and children in London: "I want to send all my love to my family. I love you."

Glass, a former correspondent for the American ABC News Television network and an ex-newsman at Newsweek, was researching a book on Lebanese influential families when he was kidnapped.

(AFP, Reuters)

Reagan envoy ends talks with Assad

DAMASCUS. (AP). — Veteran U.S. troubleshooter Vernon Walters left Damascus yesterday after two meetings with President Hafez Assad during which they discussed Middle East developments and American-Syrian relations, strained eight months ago over allegations of Syrian involvement in terrorism.

A U.S. embassy source said: "The meetings were 'friendly, fruitful and extensive.'"

U.S. Embassy sources said Walters, Washington's permanent representative at the UN new in Sunday as the first ranking U.S. official to visit Damascus since Ambassador William Eagleton was recalled in November.

Kollek considered leaving Labour

Mayor Teddy Kolek considered leaving the Labour Party when it seemed that it was not going to fight today's attempt in the Knesset to amend the Change of Religious Communities Ordinance. Under the proposed amendment, Reform and Conservative conversions would no longer be recognized in Israel.

Kollek revealed this in a letter he sent yesterday to party secretary-general MK Uzi Baram. The mayor wrote that the law would cause enormous harm to the Jewish people.

Kollek wrote that he had been angered by a newspaper report earlier this week that the Labour Party would raise an outcry against the amendment, but for coalition reasons would not fight against it.

Knesset pays tribute to Shmuel Tamir

The Knesset yesterday paid tribute to the memory of former justice minister Shmuel Tamir on the conclusion of the seven day mourning period after his death. The plenum session was addressed by Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens and Alignment MK David Liba'i.

Artist defends his memorial

By ANDY COURT

Ya'acov Agam, creator of the controversial Holocaust memorial erected without a permit near the Western Wall, yesterday compared his work to a child who may not be legitimate but nonetheless should not be destroyed.

"It's an established fact," Agam said of the memorial, which former chief rabbi Shlomo Goren placed on the roof of Idra Yeshiva, and which is now subject of a lawsuit filed by the Jerusalem Municipality against Rabbi Goren.

"Even when a bastard's born, you don't kill him," Agam said.

Artist defends his memorial

Agam made his remarks at the dedication of his latest work — stained glass windows for the new Jossi Berger Holocaust Study Centre at the Eimuna Community College in Jerusalem.

The centre is designed to familiarize Eimuna's female students, who are studying technical subjects after completing their army or national service, with the history of the Holocaust.

Agam said he "identified" with Rabbi Goren and believed that Mayor Teddy Kolek had initially approved the project, but later "gave in to pressure."

UNIFIL

(Continued from Page One)

There were no Israeli casualties. Some 50 Shi'ite gunmen then ran to the UN position. There they complained that they were being prevented from fighting the occupier. But they were told they should wage their battles elsewhere.

It was not until 8:30 at night, when senior Amal leaders arrived from Tyre and established contact with the IDF liaison unit, that a cease-fire was called.

Fighting continued yesterday, though on a much smaller scale than on Monday, a well-informed source in South Lebanon said.

Dr. RUSHA MELZER

has left us forever.

Miron, Avi, Ashi
Avraham Melzer
Nini Czopp
Irene Sa'ar

For information about the funeral call
052-553858 or 052-574542

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of

ERICA KLUGER

The funeral took place yesterday, July 7, 1987.

Alex Kluger
Miriam and Erick Karoly
Please abstain from condolence visits.

With deep sorrow
we announce the sudden death of

Dr. RUSHA MELZER

M.G. Acoustical Consultants Ltd.

Shimon Gruenbaum
and staff

AMPAL — AMERICAN ISRAEL CORPORATION

Board of Directors, Officers and Staff
Deeply mourn the passing of

Dr. GEORGE S. WISE

a former Director of the Corporation, and extend
their heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Florence Wise.

Three bus massacres in northern India Sikh gangs kill 72 Hindus

CHANDIGARH, Punjab. — Sikh gunmen attacked two buses in north India yesterday, killing 34 Hindus less than 24 hours after 38 people were killed in another bus ambush, police said.

Police reported the Haryana state bus corporation buses were stopped by gunmen outside of Fatahabad in Haryana state, about 30 km. from the state's border with Punjab.

First reports said Hindu passengers were singled out and shot.

Police said the attack took place about 8.30 p.m. On Monday night Sikh gunmen ambushed a bus in neighbouring Punjab state and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing 38 Hindus.

The United Press of India quoted Haryana police as saying the same gang might have been involved in both attacks.

In New Delhi, security was tightened to prevent a backlash by Hindus, the majority in India. Authorities banned public assembly, erected road blocks and sealed the border between Punjab and neighbouring Haryana state, just north of New Delhi.

Police officials said five to seven gunmen were involved in the first attack late Monday near Chandigarh, capital of the northern state where Sikh radicals are fighting for a separate homeland. The victims included five women and four children, and at least 32 people were wounded.

One of the terrorists died in the crossfire as the attackers fired from inside and outside the bus, police said.

In a note recovered from the body of a slain gunman, a Sikh guerrilla group threatened to "kill 100 Hindus for every Sikh killed," Punjab police chief Julius Ribeiro told a news conference. He said the note was from the Khalistan Commando Force, the largest underground Sikh terrorist group.

The note was signed by Labh Singh, a fugitive policeman and self-styled chief of the guerrilla group, Ribeiro said. Khalistan is the name Sikh militants give to their envisioned separate state.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi issued a statement calling the massacre an "evil deed." He said, "The

inhuman butchery of bus passengers should redouble our resolve to fight the extremists."

President Zail Singh, a Sikh, called the killings "inhuman and ghastly." He cancelled a visit to Punjab scheduled for today.

"We are on the hunt but we haven't made any arrests. We have sealed the border. The killers will not be spared," Ribeiro had said earlier.

According to Ribeiro, a Fiat car blocked the bus going from Chandigarh to the Hindu holy town of Rishikesh in Uttar Pradesh state. Five gunmen boarded the bus and ordered it onto a side road where it was followed by the car and a truck.

"They stopped the bus at Jalaipur and asked the passengers to get down. But when an old man at the back seat said he was unable to one of the gunmen shot him dead," the police chief said. "Suddenly the remaining four gunmen started indiscriminate firing which lasted for five minutes. One of the stray bullets hit one of the gunmen and he died on the spot."



Two policemen examine the bloodstained side of the bus where Sikh gunmen murdered 38 Hindus in Punjab yesterday. (Reuters telephoto)

Rhodes find not part of Colossus but work of mechanical digger

RHODES (Reuters). — A rock fragment at first believed to be part of the Colossus of Rhodes — one of the seven wonders of the ancient world — has turned out to be the work of a mechanical digger, archaeological experts said yesterday.

They said marks on the rock, which looked like the knuckles of a giant hand had been caused by a mechanical digger working in Rhodes harbour.

The experts said the find was not a hoax but a coincidence as the scale of the piece found could have fitted with that of the huge statue.

"The only coincidence was the scale and not the material and not the shape. We have proved that the grooves between what looked like knuckles were in fact caused by the teeth of a mechanical digger," one expert said.

He said the rock was made of sandstone and apparently had been dropped in the harbour two or three years ago.

Marine Minister Stathis Alexandris said on Sunday that archaeologists believed the fragment came from the 30-metre statue that stood astride the entrance to the ancient harbour. News of the find spread throughout the world and reporters began descending on this tourist spot.

Culture Minister Melina Mercouri cast doubt on the authenticity of the find and flew to Rhodes on Monday night to sort the matter out.

The Colossus which represented the sun, was erected in 280 B.C. and toppled by an earthquake in 225 B.C.

Dutch-born archaeologist Ann Dankers, now living in Australia, triggered the search for remains of the statue and led divers to a spot where the hand was found. Other items found near the hand turned out to be parts of an ancient column, but nothing to do with the Colossus.

"The only good to come out of this is that the search for the real Colossus may now be stepped up," an expert said.

Ferryman dozes, 400 feared lost

LUSAKA (AFP). — The death toll from a river disaster on the Zambia-Zaire border rose to 200 yesterday, while a combined police army and fire-brigade search team continued to look for 200 more bodies.

Police said the toll was higher than initially indicated because more than 500 passengers were probably on board, not 400 as first thought.

Government officials and police reached by telephone in Mansa, capital of Luapula province, said a navigational error may have caused the accident which occurred early Monday.

"The barge hit a sandbank when it went off course. It is very obvious that it was overloaded beyond the 470 capacity," a government official said.

The Zairean barge, Maria, hit the sandbank on the Zairean side. Eighty passengers reportedly swam to safety.

Police blamed the accident on the coxswain after reports that he appeared to be half asleep when the accident took place.

Iraq steps up attacks on tankers in Gulf

MANAMA. — Iraqi warplanes fired two heat-seeking Exocet missiles at a Cypriot tanker ferrying Iranian crude oil late Monday night, igniting a fire but causing no casualties, Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported.

The stepped-up Iraqi bombing campaign against Iranian-chartered tankers followed a rejection by the Iraqi president of any partial solutions that aim at ending the Gulf war, and while U.S. military forces geared up to escort 11 Kuwaiti tankers in the troubled Gulf.

In Baghdad, Iraq said yesterday its planes attacked two "large naval targets" — its usual term for tankers or large cargo ships — near the Iranian coast in the northern Gulf Monday night.

A military spokesman said the aircraft scored "effective and accurate hits" and returned safely to base. There was no immediate confirmation of the attacks by shipping sources in the Gulf.

Both Iraq and Iran reported ground fighting on the Northern war front on Monday night. Baghdad denied a Tehran report that Iranian

FOREIGN BRIEFS

"Genitals in parcel" panics postal workers

NAIROBI (AFP). — Workers in the main post office here fled in fear when four pieces of dried fish found in a parcel from Singapore were mistaken for severed male and female genitals, the Standard newspaper reported yesterday.

The postal services head was quoted as admitting the consignment looked like genitals, but that a note from the sender in the parcel said they were fish of a species not found in Kenya.

The scare follows several reported cases of people being killed around Nairobi and their genitals, breasts and tongues cut away, allegedly for sale abroad for medicinal preparations.

Taiwan parliament votes to end martial law

TAIPEI (Reuters). — Taiwan's parliament yesterday voted to lift martial law, the last legislative step in removing the measure which has been in force since Nationalist forces retreated to Taiwan in 1949 after being defeated by the Communists. The formal end of the law is expected to be proclaimed by President Chiang Ching-Kuo within 10 days.

Political analysts said the lifting of martial law would boost Taiwan's international image and strengthen its unofficial relations with the U.S. and other countries.

S. Africa police kills two in "terrorist" raid

PRETORIA (AFP). — South African police yesterday killed two people, one of them a suspected terrorist, by running an armoured troop carrier over the shack in which they were hiding, police headquarters announced here.

Acting on information, the police went to a shack in Motherwell, near Port Elizabeth, looking for a suspected member of the outlawed African National Congress. The occupants of the shack, ordered to come outside, shot several times at police, who then used their carrier to flatten the shack.

Uganda says 200 rebels killed in clash

KAMPALA (Reuters). — Ugandan government forces killed 200 rebels in a clash at Opit, near the northern town of Gulu, last Saturday, the government-run biweekly New Vision said yesterday.

The newspaper quote army commander Elly Tumwine as confirming reports of the battle. New Vision said it was the biggest operation since government forces overran a rebel camp at Cwero in the same area on June 7, killing 227 guerrillas.

Britain, China hold more talks on Hongkong

LONDON (Reuters). — Growing unease at signs that Peking disapproves of Hongkong's latest plans for democratic electoral reform are likely to overshadow new talks that began here yesterday on the colony's future, British government sources said.

The four-day talks are the seventh round to be held by the Sino-British joint liaison group set up to discuss the British colony's future after its sovereignty is handed over to China in 10 years.

Estonia's top military official held for corruption

STOCKHOLM (AFP). — The ranking military official in the Soviet Republic of Estonia has been arrested for corruption, according to a report in a Stockholm daily yesterday.

Roomer Kludmaa, general commissioner for war, is accused of allowing conscripts to carry out their military service "outside Afghanistan" in exchange for bribes of up to 1,000 roubles (\$640) according to the Dagens Nyheter.

The daily quoted unconfirmed reports that Kludmaa had already been sentenced and executed.

Fahd: Will buy arms from any country

JEDDAH (Reuters). — King Fahd has called on Saudi Arabians to join the armed forces to help defend their country and religion. In a speech in Taif on Monday night, he also said Saudi Arabia was free to buy arms from any country.

Shanghai ordure market slumps

BEIJING (Reuters). — Shanghai, China's biggest city, cannot find enough buyers for the 7,500 tons of human waste it produces every day, so ways are being sought to increase consumption.

The China Daily said yesterday's latest statistics showed only half of Shanghai's nightsoil was sent to farms for use as fertiliser.

The Liberation daily in Shanghai recommended three ways to boost nightsoil consumption, lengthening farm leases to encourage farmers to fertilise their land properly and using

manure both to make methane gas and to breed plankton as low-cost fish meal.

Competition from cheaper and more efficient chemical fertilisers and an abundant supply of cow, pig and poultry excrement have discouraged many farmers in surrounding areas from visiting Shanghai to cart away human waste.

China's successful rural economic reforms have also added to the nightsoil surplus. Forty per cent of the area's rural people now work in factories rather than till the land.

Manila bid to recover \$5b. from Marcos

MANILA (Reuters). — The Philippine Government will file civil charges against ousted president Ferdinand Marcos next month to try to recover \$5 billion alleged to be stashed away around the world.

"We would dearly love to see Marcos stand trial here but it's impossible with the present political climate in the country," Manuel Buysan of the presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday.

U.S. military LSD guinea pig loses his case

By GERSHON GORENBERG

and MYRA NOVECK

Jerusalem Post Correspondents

PALM SPRINGS, Florida. — U.S.

Army Master Sergeant James Stanley

was a model soldier and family

man until early 1958, when he suddenly

began to beat his wife and

children and to wander aimlessly

around his base.

Only in 1975 did Stanley learn that

he had been a guinea pig in an army

experiment in which he had been

given LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide)

without his knowledge.

The after-effects of the hallucinogenic

drug cost Stanley his first

marriage and his until-then unblemished

military record.

But last week, the U.S. Supreme

Court ruled, in a five-four vote, that

the one-time career soldier could not

sue the U.S. government.

A soldier, the court ruled, could

not seek redress for violation of his

constitutional rights by government

officials.

The government has acknowledged

that 1,000 soldiers were given

LSD without their knowledge. But

only Stanley's case reached the high

court.

In a stinging dissent from the U.S.

court's ruling, Justice William Brennan

compared the U.S. Army's

treatment of Stanley to Nazi medical

experiments.

Stanley made the same comparison

after the ruling. He said he was

eager to discuss the case with Israeli

journalists, believing Israelis would

be sensitive to the issue of involuntary

experimentation.

"Those people went through the

same kind of stuff during World War

II," said Stanley, now a sheriff's

deputy in Florida's Palm Beach

County.

In the first face-to-face interview

he has given without his lawyer

present since his court battle began

nearly a decade ago, he talked quietly,

often falling silent.

Born in West Virginia, Stanley

joined the U.S. Army in 1949. He

was 15 years old. "I sort of told them

I was 17," he said.

Stanley fought in Korea and later

did a tour of duty in Vietnam. His

decorations included a Bronze Star

and a Purple Heart.

In February 1958, Stanley volunteered for what he was told would be a programme to test gas masks and protective clothing for chemical warfare.

But during the month he spent at Edgewood Arsenal, outside of Baltimore, Maryland, he never saw a gas mask.

"I was taken down to the hospital for an interview. A fellow was asking me psychological and aptitude questions. During the test he went out and came back with two glasses of liquid, and said, 'Have a drink.' Then he sent me back to my dormitory to relax."

"Within 15 minutes I was hila-rious. The oddest part was a thumb-tack in the wall. I thought this was the funniest thing in the world. I could not stop laughing. This went on for hours," he recalled.

Stanley underwent three more such sessions at the Maryland base. Sometimes he became violent. At other times he imagined he was "tumbling and tumbling and tumbling" from a tall building.

After the experiment, Stanley returned to his unit at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He never knew he had been drugged. "Drugs were unheard of in those days," he said. But he felt "totally lost. I would start out for work and not end up there. I knew there was something wrong, but I was afraid to talk to one of the [army] doctors about it. In those days, the army would say, 'Hey, you're a little mixed up in the head, and discharge you.'"

That would have ended "my whole career," he said.

By 1960, Stanley was demoted to sergeant first class. "I was told that I just couldn't function as a platoon sergeant, and that I was found in unauthorized areas," he recalled.

Meanwhile, the change in his personality "was tearing my family apart. My wife and I fought constantly."

Only in the mid-60s did "things begin to smooth out. But the family damage had already been done. Child abuse, wife abuse, throwing things, tearing up clothing."

"One time I picked up the TV and threw it. That night I picked my wife up and threw her against the wall."

Horace Richter Gallery 24 Simtat Mazal Arye, Jaffa

We wish to apologise to the Ramat Gan branch of ILAN — the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children, and those who bought tickets for the performance of the Princeton Tigerton Choir, which was to have taken place at the Richter Gallery on Thursday, July 9.

Unfortunately, the choir has unexpectedly cancelled its appearance.

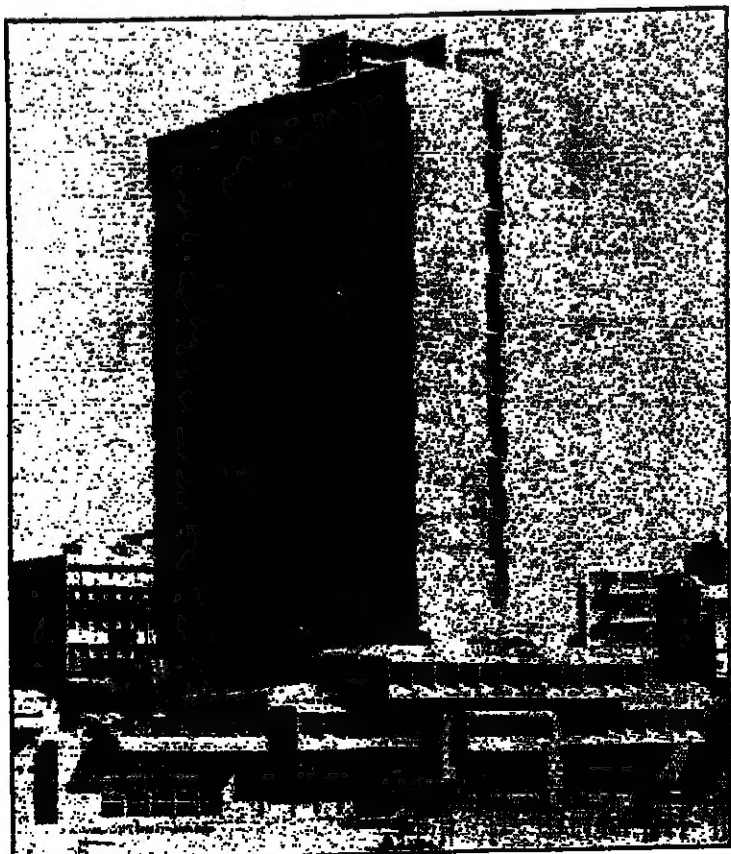
Horace Richter

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SEVEN MILLION JEWS

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Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith	Jewish Theological Seminary of America	Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Assembly of the Jewish Agency for Israel	Labour Zionist Alliance	World Council of Synagogues
Assoc. of Reform Zionists of America	Mercator — Movement for Conservative Zionism	Union of American Hebrew Congregations
B'nai B'rith	National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs	Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Central Conference of American Rabbis	National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods	World Union Progressive Judaism
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Na'amat
World Labour Zionist Movement

Volunteers raising money for medical treatment abroad

By JUDY SIEGEL

Post Science and Health Reporter
A publicly supervised fund that raises money for urgent medical treatment and surgery abroad has finally been established, making private - and sometimes bogus - appeals by families unnecessary.

Called Association for Life, the fund hopes to raise the sum of about \$7.5 million a year that is needed to cover the approximately 150 cases approved by the Health Ministry.

Authorization for subsidized treatment abroad will be granted only if no Israeli hospital or doctor can provide it. This includes heart and liver transplants (unless donated organs are available for these operations here) and rare conditions.

The fund, established by the Yad Be'Yad volunteer group in Tel Aviv, has already raised \$350,000. Psychologist Shelly Hoshen, the chairman of the fund, notes that any family receiving a grant will be obliged to sign an undertaking to return any money that remains if the patient dies, or is otherwise left over.

The fund financed an operation for a six-year-old boy with a club foot who underwent 10 unsuccessful operations here. He was sent to a British hospital, the only one in the world believed able to help him. Hoshen says that the boy is now

walking normally.

"We help people of all socio-economic levels, not only the poor," says Hoshen. "The need for an emergency operation or treatment abroad that is not available here can strike any family, a professor's or a labourer's." For that reason, everyone should donate to the fund. "If every Israeli gave just NIS 10 a year, everyone could easily be helped."

Ten patients are now registered with the fund and waiting for enough money to be collected to be sent for treatment. Hoshen turned to the banks, but has so far received little more than moral support. Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino has offered backing "of all kinds, except that we have no money." Thus the fund has to appeal to the Israeli public, municipalities, institutions, and donors abroad for funds to keep the project going. All donations are tax-deductible.

Kupat Holim Clalit participates in the treatment abroad of its members, but covers only about 10 percent of the total outlay, and reimburses the family after they return. The new fund should help families to cover their outgoings, the Kupat Holim reimbursement being transferred to the Association for Life fund to aid others.

Hoshen declares that with the establishment of the fund, which is supervised by a public board of doctors, MKs, lawyers, accountants and others, no one need contribute to privately-run appeals for medical treatment abroad. She says that in the past there has been misuse of money by some who raised the funds in newspaper ads. One man underwent surgery abroad, and with the money that was left, went on a vacation before returning to Israel.

Yad Be'Yad was founded four years ago to provide immediate help to people in trouble. If a widow told the group she couldn't manage her children after school, she was matched up with a volunteer in her neighborhood who offered help. "We wanted to assist without any bureaucratic runaround or delays," says Hoshen, who adds that on average, 100 families are helped every month.

The organization established a 24-hour-a-day open phone line for children, so that they could anonymously call a psychologist for information or counselling. Over 100 calls are received each day. The number is (03) 226027.

The phone number of the Association for Life and Yad Be'Yad is (03) 222732. Money can be donated through branch 816 of Bank Leumi, account number 357871/78.



Shadow puppets made of leather, each over a metre in height, from the India exhibition which has just opened at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The puppets were made in the 19th century.

(Israel Museum)

A taste of 'Wondrous India'

By ANDY COURT

Rose petals were sprinkled on the mock altar of the elephant-headed god Ganesha yesterday, as the Israel Museum's Youth Wing opened its "Wondrous India" exhibition.

The exhibition, which aims to bring the culture and the crafts of the Far East closer to the youth of the Middle East, includes a replica of an altar to Ganesha as well as a bevy of stone Buddhas sitting serenely in one corner.

A special performance of India's classical and folk dances will be given by Ran Shinar and the Bnei Israel dancer tonight at 8 in the museum auditorium and the great Indian epic, the *Ramayana*, will be performed with shadow puppets throughout August.

Mayor Teddy Kollek and Indian-born conductor Zubin Mehta were among those attending opening.

"We wanted to give Israeli youth some background on the Far East," said curator Hannah Satz, a Jerusalem-based photographer who has done many assignments in India.

"And we chose India because it's the birthplace of three of the great religions in the world: the Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism."

The exhibition points out that 600 million people, 83 per cent of India's population, are Hindus, and 25 per cent of the world's population are Buddhists.

The exhibition, which will be open through February also displays more secular aspects of Indian life - marionettes, musical instruments, newspapers, and tapestries.

MDA goes to a Beduin town

When a father of 48 children gives blood

By BRADLEY BURSTON

For The Jerusalem Post
RAHAT. - If a man with six wives donates blood, will Magen David Adom's blood bank provide free transfusions to all of his 48 children in the event of accident or illness?

The answer, according to MDA's Shabtai Meshulam, is that only those under the age of 18 are eligible for transfusions.

Yesterday, MDA opened a major blood collection drive here, the largest of Negev Beduin townships.

Among the donors yesterday was Sheikh Mohammed Abu Shibani who, in the words of a fellow Rahat merchant, knows a bargain when he sees one. Abu Shibani, who has a child for nearly every one of his 52 years, was guaranteed blood supplies by the MDA for a period of 12 months after making his donation. Abu Shibani's six wives are also covered.

"Our policy is that the families of Arab donors be granted the same terms as the families of Jewish donors, no matter how large the family," said Meshulam.

The drive was preceded by an information campaign designed to help Rahat residents overcome their reservations about giving blood.

"The majority here hesitated," observed Dr. Ibrahim Interat, one of Rahat's four physicians. According to Interat, many of the town's older residents are reluctant to take blood tests in hospital.

"They treat it like losing an organ, as if there were only a certain amount of blood in the body and that once you give up some of it, it's gone forever. They worry about losing their strength as a result. And religious tradition teaches that it's very important to keep the body intact."

But Beduin fears about giving blood are not very different from those of many Jews, Interat added. "In blood collection drives on moshavim populated by Jews of Yemenite or Moroccan origin, for example, I've often been asked the same questions about strength and vitality."

Despite the efforts to convince Rahat's older residents to donate blood, most of the donors yesterday were young, many of them employees of the local council.

"We look at giving blood as giving help to people," said donor Ahmad al-Shammil, 24.

Local health personnel are hoping that following the town's participation in the blood drive, the MDA will expand services to the town's 20,000 inhabitants. Until recently, Rahat had no doctor-on-call during evenings, nights and at weekends, and residents had to go to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital for treatment. Though an MDA station has been established to handle night emergencies, the town still has only one ambulance.

Aipac is 'major force in shaping American policy in Middle East'

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

WASHINGTON. - The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (Aipac) has become a "major force in shaping U.S. policy in the Middle East," says an article in *The New York Times*.

Written by David Shipper, the former Jerusalem bureau chief of the paper, the article cites examples of the political clout of Aipac in shaping U.S. administration policy.

The account - the first of a two-part series - says that Aipac's influence is "greater than it has ever been before." It ascribes this to grassroots organizing and skillful lobbying. The report also praises Aipac's staff, which includes a cadre of weapons experts and strategic analysts.

Partly as a result of the Pentagon contacts of Aipac's military specialists and partly because of the pro-Israel sympathies of the Reagan administration, Aipac was able to give wider meaning to the idea of "strategic cooperation" agreed upon by the two countries in 1981, writes Shipper.

There are now joint American-Israeli naval maneuvers, the use of Israeli target ranges by U.S. Navy planes, and similar cooperative endeavours. The report says the relationship between Israel and the Pentagon has become "institutionalized."

The article cites a letter from Richard L. Armitage, Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs, to Aipac's executive director, Tom Dine, saying: "We take great pride in the fact that many activities, unthinkable in the past, are now a normal and routine occurrence between the two defence organizations."

The article says that the Aipac-Pentagon cooperation extends to such efforts as securing Israel's participation in the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) by informing the Pentagon of Israel's research capabilities in this field.

Another example cited is the effort to develop a weapon that could shoot down short-range missiles. The paper says that Israel has been working on this, and in particular on how to counter Syrian missiles

believed to be capped with chemical weapons. Aipac is reportedly seeking about \$100-200 million in U.S. contracts from the Pentagon to help finance Israel's testing.

The report says that the growth of Aipac can be traced to its bruising clash with the Reagan administration on the issue of the AWACS in early-warning planes for Saudi Arabia in 1981. The lobby came within an inch of winning. The tussle made the administration much more wary of proposing subsequent controversial sales to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The result, according to Shipper, has been that the administration will often consult with the lobby before launching initiatives.

The account mentions an instance when the administration did not consult with Aipac over its submission to Congress of an intention to sell Maverick missiles to Saudi Arabia. Aipac organized opposition to the plan and the sale was withdrawn, although it rumoured that the proposal will be submitted again before the end of the summer.

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Politics and entertainers don't mix, MKs argue

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Entertainers appearing in political propaganda broadcasts failed to influence the way people voted in the last Knesset elections, according to politicians from all parties.

Former deputy foreign minister Yehuda Ben-Meir (National Religious Party), for one, does not think that putting entertainers on the political bandwagon is a good thing.

"I don't think you should sell political ideology via the Gashashim or Seli Rivlin," he said yesterday in

Tel Aviv. "You can't sell politicians in the same way as you sell toothpaste." Ben-Meir spoke at a symposium of the Israel Public Relations Association, at Beit Sokolov.

Agreeing with him were MKs Dov Ben-Meir (Labour), Elmad Omeri (Likud) and Yair Tsaban (Mapam). There was also general consensus that putting well-known entertainers into the spotlight of the election campaign was effective only in blurring the issues around which the campaign revolved.



A water toboggan in Tiberias.

(Werner Braun)

GALILEE GAMBOLES

The changing character of swimming pools

By HELGA DUDMAN

MAMMOTH RED and blue water slides, looking like huge anatomical constructs of intestines designed for medical schools, have sprung up all around us. One was being unpacked at Hammat Gader the last time I visited; you can see them at Tsemah (where we are told it is Tsemah), at the northern entrance to Tiberias on the shore road and, I suppose, at self-respecting kibbutzim and pools and beaches everywhere.

The head of a Tiberias yeshiva recently registered an official complaint, saying he found it very painful to have to view all those naked bodies writhing and slithering their way down the blue and red intestines. (Couldn't he avoid the sight? Well, it would take an effort.)

It's happening more and more that I find myself firmly in the same camp with the Orthodox, if for the wrong reasons. Like the rabbi, I am offended by these big-business water slides, and probably like him I'm disturbed by their moral, or at least educational, implications.

But I'm thinking about swimming. The sport. Can anyone deny that these grotesque plastic imports are anything but an invitation to more and more disorder? From the top, you hurtle down at great speed and with a total absence of control, just as though you were an Israeli driver. Ke!

Consider, for a moment, the general disappearance of the diving board from the pools of the nation. I distinctly remember seeing one or two here and there years ago - low ones. Perhaps a few are still around, and I just don't get to the right places. Because of the pools and beaches I see, there is a great deal of jumping in, bottom first, and aiming for the heads down there below.

Oh sure, you'll find some reasonably good swimmers, but what goes on at the pools is, by and large, the kind of behaviour that rules out diving boards.

Instead we have these high-admission-fee, downhill speedways with their anti-swim atmosphere. "But the kids love them!" No doubt they do; and they would love them even more if the pools were filled with chocolate syrup, and they could stay in them all through the school year. But kids also enjoy learning to do things well (though by no means necessarily competitively) and at a young age. I know, I know; there are such programmes. But for every child who enjoys the fun of good swimming, there seem to be a hundred who just splash and shriek.

The Israeli pool seems to have become, as well, a backdrop for wedding photographs, fashion shows and for hare-brained, aerobic hysteria. The latter is going on this very moment, on a very hot noon, under my nose, in Tiberias. Would mad dogs, or even Englishmen, consider such a crazed activity, around a pool, at such a time?

Can ex-Aussies vote on Saturday?

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Australian embassy officials are unable to say whether many Australians resident in Israel are eligible to vote in national elections this Saturday.

Voting is compulsory in Australia for all citizens registered on the electoral rolls. To appear there, an Australian should have a permanent address in Australia.

Some Australians resident in Israel have parents Down Under and use their address. Among such Australians are people who lost their citizenship last year in accordance with the Australian Citizenship Law.

Changes implemented later enabled them to once more become Australian citizens. No instructions have been received from Canberra as to whether people in this category of citizenship are eligible to vote.

Anyone who can prove Australian citizenship will be permitted to vote at the embassy between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday. Those unable to travel to the embassy can vote by mail.

"We'll accept all the votes," Mark Murray, an embassy official, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "But Canberra will decide which of those votes will actually be counted."

Police chief's car stolen in Netanya
NETANYA (Itim). - The car of the police commander of the Northern District was stolen early yesterday. The car, which had been parked in front of the commander's home here, had police licence plates.

Two men held for attack on soldier

NETANYA (Itim). - Two men from Tira, suspected of stabbing a hitchhiking soldier and trying to steal his rifle, were remanded in custody for 15 days yesterday by a magistrate's court judge here. Their names were banned from publication.

Testimony by Balal Masrawa, 21, of Taiba, who was arrested last Friday, led to their arrest.

Soldier Ro'i Zaltsman was attacked by two men who picked him up at the Beit Lid junction last month.

Negev food plant

OFAKIM (Itim). - A food processing plant here was closed yesterday by the head of the local council for operating without a Health Ministry licence and polluting the surrounding area.

The recently established Food Industries factory, which pickles and cans vegetables, had not yet been connected to the local sewage system and its effluents were being dumped outside the plant.

New police measures on arrest of notables

By BERNARD JOSEPHS

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Special regulations for investigating and arresting public figures have been introduced by Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

The minister, speaking in the wake of a number of cases involving public personalities, stressed that the rules were not intended to provide favourable conditions for suspects.

But they would ensure that senior police officials, including himself, were forewarned when a case involving "celebrities" was about to surface.

At a briefing for crime reporters in Jerusalem, Bar-Lev strongly rejected charges by Likud MKs that the police were politically biased.

"The only influence on police investigators is the law," he said. "No other pressures, despite the slanderous accusations made against the force, carry any weight."

Bar-Lev said that he had consulted with Police Inspector-General David Kraus about policy in the case of investigations involving "public figures."

Without expanding on who such persons might be, he went on: "We decided that these investigations should be careful and discreet, and [that they] would be the subject of discussion between senior officers."

"I will want to know in advance of such cases and so will the inspector-general."

A decision to arrest a VIP, said the minister, would have to be supported by Kraus. "Not every officer in the police force can decide to arrest, say, a town's mayor. Only the inspector-general can make such a decision. That is my policy and I believe it is justified," he added.

Among recent cases involving public figures was the arrest of former Prisons Service Commissioner Rafi Suissa, a personal friend of Bar-Lev. "I was informed that an investigation of Rafi Suissa would take place. The inspector-general told me it could not be avoided," said the minister.

Another was the probe of allegations later found to be false against the son of Housing Minister David Levy. This case led to a storm of protest by Likud politicians who claimed, among other things, that Bar-Lev was using the police as a political weapon on the Alignment's behalf.

Bar-Lev stressed that he had no direct role in investigations. "I have said this a thousand times. I have responsibility but I have no direct influence or role in the work the police do. They work according to the law, not according to ministerial instructions."

Row over woman for top job
Jerusalem Post Staff
The Labour Court in Jerusalem has been asked to cancel the tender for the job of deputy director-general of administration in the Ministry of Education.

No woman at an appropriate level could be found to fill the position, according to officials.

But Nitza Shapira Liba'i, the prime minister's adviser on women's affairs, told the court that the explanation for the absence of female candidates was simply not true, and thus the tender committee had acted contrary to civil service regulations.

Liba'i asked that the committee's decision be cancelled and a new tender committee be appointed.

For some of Israel's elderly, a vacation is an impossible luxury.



The Jerusalem Post Forsake Me Not Fund helps provide the needy with the essentials, but if there's a little left over, we can also give a once-in-a-lifetime vacation to an elderly person who has never been away from home. Sometimes, it could mean much-needed rest and recuperation for someone who has been ill.

Your contributions go a long way to keeping our needy elderly healthy - and happy. Please, be generous.

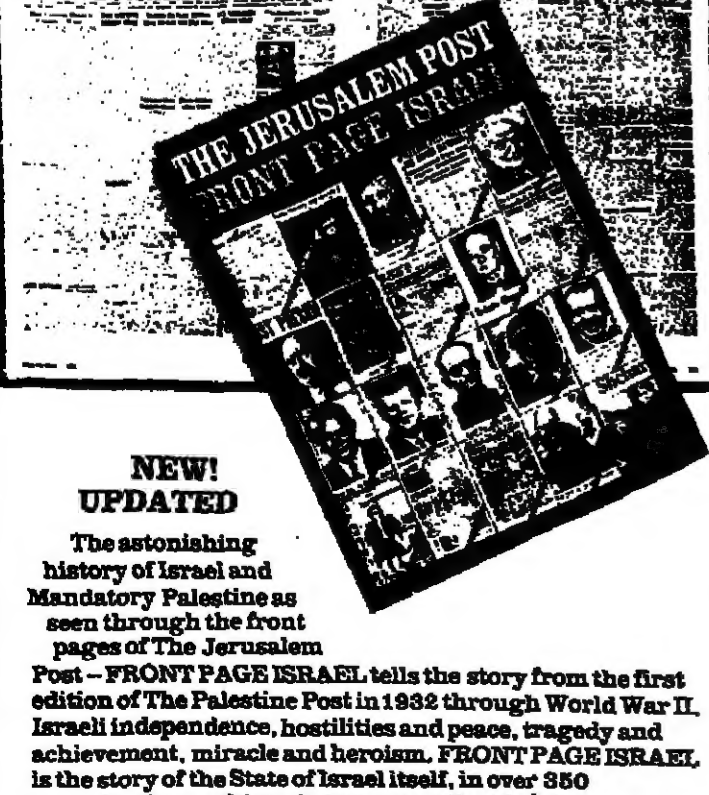
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Basra is in the frontline of the Iran-Iraq war

'A sad time, a sad place'

Ed Blanche/Basra, Iraq

THE SHATT al-Arab Hotel stands eerily empty on Basra's waterfront, stranded like the score of freighters trapped by the Iran-Iraq war that are rusting alongside the docks.

The once-bustling port has been closed since the early days of the war that has raged longer than World War II and claimed more than a million casualties.

The ochre-colored hotel epitomizes Basra's plight.

It is named after the turgid, palm-fringed waterway—the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers—that flows through Basra into the Persian Gulf 48 kilometres south. It was Iran's claim to territorial rights in the waterway that set off the war 6½ years ago.

An Arab trading centre for 1,200 years, Basra is in the frontline of the war. A few weeks ago, Iranian troops battled into its eastern suburbs until the Iraqi Army's 3rd corps drove them back.

The colonial-era hotel, once the haunt of sea captains and shipping agents, is deserted except for Daniel, the owner, and a few despondent employees with nowhere to go and losing hope of better times.

The high-ceilinged lobby, with its phalanxes of leather armchairs and sofas, potted plants and models of old coal-fired freighters in grimy glass cases, is forlorn.

A desk clerk sits behind a dust-

covered mahogany reception desk, reading a newspaper. Room keys dangle in neat rows from their hooks behind him.

TIME STOOD still for the Shatt al-Arab Hotel a long time ago. A flip-over 1982 calendar on the desk reads July 17. The clock stopped who knows when at 12:16.

"Yes," the desk clerk says indifferently in reply to an inquiry, "we have plenty of rooms."

There isn't even a flicker of interest that perhaps, after all this time, there's a prospect of some business. It's been so bad for so long nobody cares.

Daniel ushers a clutch of visitors into the dusty dining room, where the tables are covered in cloths that once were white, the water glasses inconspicuously decorated with red paper napkins.

"Only tea, eggs and bread," Daniel says. "No fruit juice, steak, coffee. Only eggs, and only fried."

He lamented: "This is a sad time, this is a sad place. I don't think things will ever get better. This war has brought us only ruin, bad times. Bad times, only bad times."

The Iranians are only eight km. to the east, held back by Iraq's formidable

defence line of huge earthenworks, massed artillery, multi-barrelled rocket launchers, and Soviet-made T-55 tanks dug in behind minefields and jungles of barbed wire.

The Iranians pushed across the marshland through three Iraqi defence lines in January and February in one of their biggest offensives.

Western military analysts in Baghdad estimate that 40,000 Iranians and 25,000 Iraqis were killed by the time the push ground to a halt.

During the offensive, Basra was hammered for weeks as the Iranians moved up their medium artillery. Shells and rockets sometimes fell at a rate of one a minute, 1,000 a day, battering the heart of the city and causing hundreds of casualties.

MOST OF the pre-war population of one million has fled, scattering to Baghdad and Kut and the adobe villages of the salt-soured wetlands of southern Iraq.

Fire from the Iranians' Austrian-made 155MM guns still smashes into Basra. It kills a few people every now and then, but in contrast to the bombardments earlier this year, the casualties pass almost unnoticed.

Despite the shelling, people are

trickling back into Basra. Iraqi officials say half the population has returned, but there is little evidence of that. Only about one-third seem to have come back, and they're patching up their battered homes and businesses.

Whole blocks of houses remain deserted. Many businesses and stores, their windows shattered, are closed behind piles of sandbags.

In the Hamdan Hotel downtown, every window was blown out by a salvo of 11 shells that crunched in one night a couple of weeks ago, gouging holes in the walls of the restaurant and lobby. Owner Ahmed Raschoo, 43, considers himself lucky.

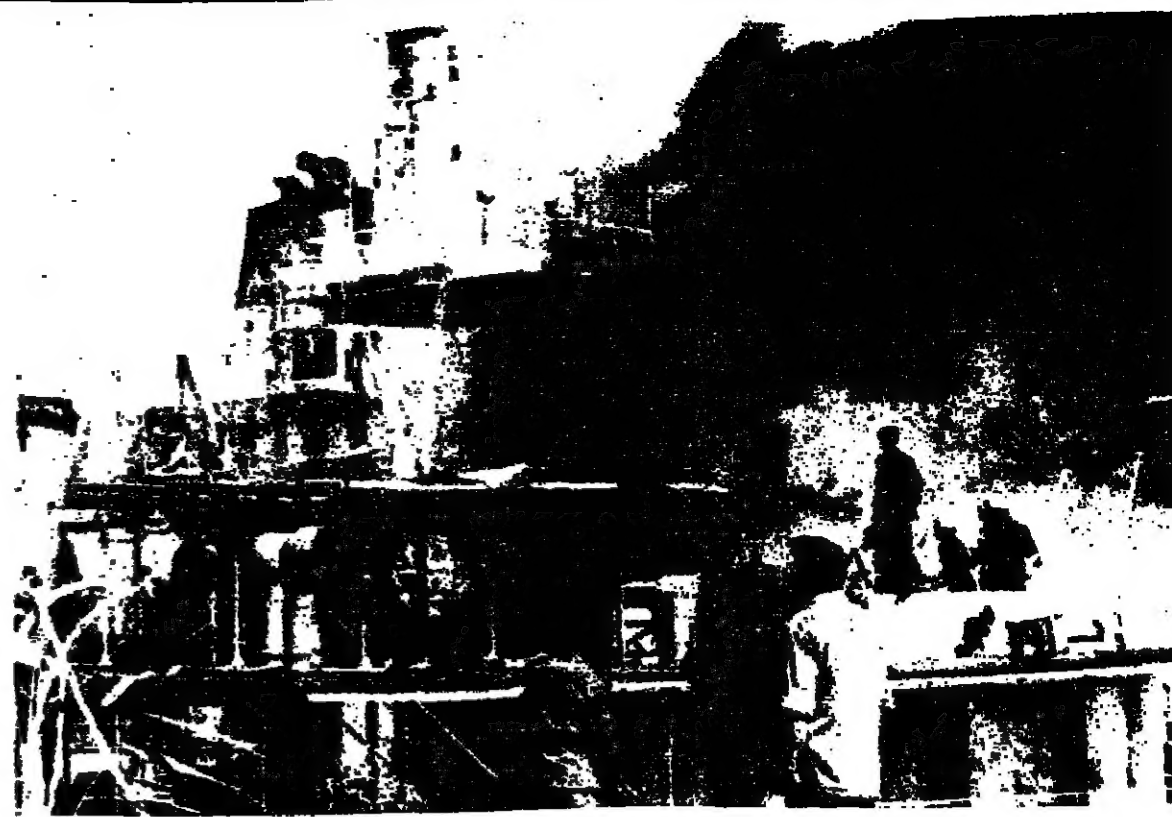
"The shrapnel and flying glass came in like a storm as we drank coffee," he said.

"There were 23 people in the lobby, but only one, a Kuwaiti, was hit in the thigh. How he lived, I don't know how we all didn't die."

Sitting in the sandbagged lobby, he added: "Business is terrible and this war seems to go on forever."

Many buildings have had their fronts blown off. The walls of the Sheraton hotel have been punctured by shrapnel, the interior wrecked.

Troops are everywhere in the streets. Shops open behind walls of sandbags made of U.S.-aid flour sacks. Soviet-made ZSU-23 anti-aircraft guns, their short barrels



Firemen battle a blaze on a utility ship bombed by Iranians while docked in Basra.

(UPI)

pointing eastwards, sit atop every high building and bridge.

PORTRAITS of President Saddam Hussein are everywhere, but unlike those that proliferate in Baghdad, 85 miles from the front, the portraits in Basra show Saddam wearing a soldier's helmet and praying.

For miles around the city, the flat semi-desert is one huge sprawling military encampment dotted with batteries of artillery and conical earthen flak towers with 40MM guns.

As desultory shellfire rumbled to the east and south, Harath Mitbel, a former infantry officer now on the staff of the city's governor said: "The Iranians failed to capture the city. They lost a lot of men, but they'll try again."

"They really want Basra. They think if they take it they will take Iraq. But they're wrong. They can shell us all they want, and when the war is over, we'll rebuild."

Basra, some Iraqis say, is where the country's fate will be decided. If Basra, Iraq's second largest city, falls, the Iranians are likely to proclaim a puppet Islamic republic here.

because most Iraqi southerners are Shiite Muslims like the Iranians. But they have ignored Khomeini's exhortations to rise up against Saddam's Sunni-dominated regime.

"Who wants those mad mullahs in Teheran ruling us?" snorted Fanran Abboud, 50, a grizzled street vendor who sells scarves and shawls in the market.

"They've made life a nightmare in Iran. We'll win this war and take our revenge twice over on those who have done this to us."

(Associated Press)

Karameh was 'chief impediment' to Lebanese unity

Grant Booth Livingstone

DESPITE THE Roman counsel of *De mortis, nisi bonum dixit*—don't speak ill of the dead—when propagandists in newsmen's clothing whitewash a dead Lebanese leader to load more unearned blame on his still living, maligned people—correction is warranted, even if the dead bear some blame.

The *Observer News Service's* Patrick Seale's "Hopes die with Karameh," published in *The Jerusalem Post* (June 10) is full of nonsense about Rashid Karameh's attitudes and ostensible loss to Lebanon.

Nothing could be further from the truth than Seale's assertions that Karameh was "wedded to the old Lebanese formula of compromise and opposed to an Islamic State," or that Karameh's murder "killed what hopes remained of a united country."

Karameh in fact was a hardliner for Sunni Muslims hegemony. Only the minority size and corrupting wealth of his Sunni constituency limited his drive. For twenty years, he was the chief impediment to the Lebanon government which acted in unity to bring peace and order to its alien-torn people.

Lebanon was constitutionally established as the one nation in the Arab world where Christians and others than Sunni Muslims could live in freedom and equal rights. Karameh single-mindedly aimed for Sunni domination.

Karameh became prime minister only through Syrian pressure after Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. He was the man most Lebanese blamed for the 1969 Cairo Agree-

ment which allowed the PLO to set up bases in Lebanon. The agreement opened the door to the PLO's destruction of Lebanon, a process prolonged by Karameh's repeated refusal to unleash the Lebanese army against the PLO. Karameh knew he was hated by most of his countrymen. His resignation three weeks before he was murdered reflected that frustration. His day was over.

The only hope lost with Karameh was that of the Sunni "Moslem Brotherhood," which was ruinous to Lebanon. It aimed to turn Lebanon from the freest state in the Arab world into just another Moslem-ruled oppressor of Christian and non-Sunni minorities. That evil hope died a month before him when Lebanon's Parliament defied him, freeing its land from the 18-year Cairo Agreement albatross, that Karameh had hung around its neck in 1969.

Those who swallow *The Observer News Service's* pro-PLO propaganda as news, will miss the profound significance of Lebanon's rescinding the Cairo Agreement. Karameh's

death was a punctuation mark—it marked the end of an era of official Lebanese consent to the foreign-imposed destruction of Lebanon.

Seale makes one true statement in all his nonsense: "Lebanon has become the battleground for other people's wars." But that insight is marred by his implication that it was Israel's intervention which made it an alien fight; it was alien-run from its PLO/KGB-instigated beginnings. The cancellation of the Cairo Agreement is of major significance for Israel. It removes the figleaf of legitimacy from Unifil's nine-year hostility to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and the South Lebanese militia (SLA).

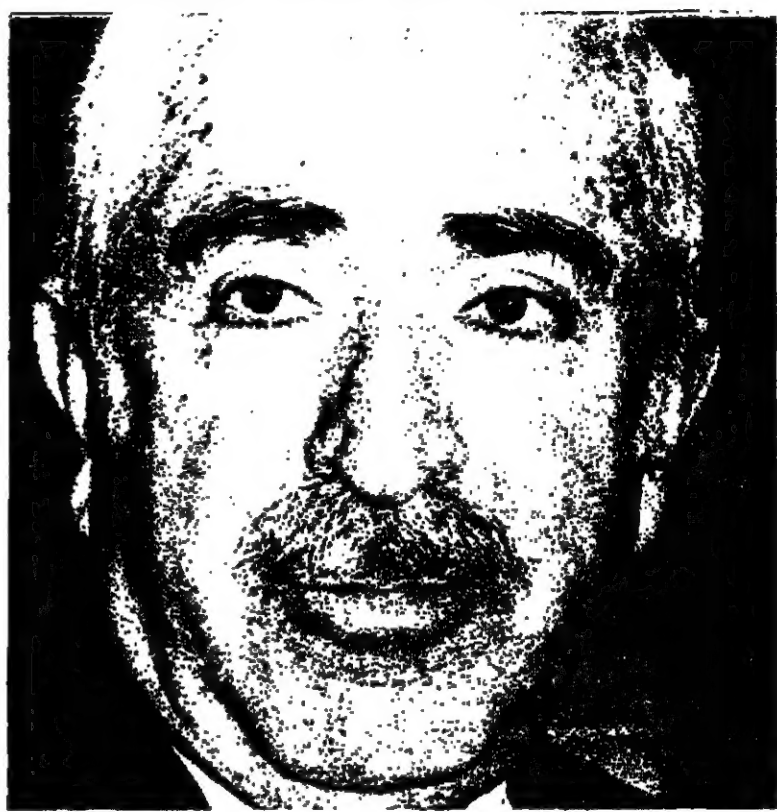
Years before the World Jewish Congress accused Waldheim of having a Nazi past, this writer censured his unconstructed Nazi present. It was Kurt Waldheim who set up Unifil in 1978, facing backwards—a farce

from the start: it protected the PLO troublemakers of South Lebanon from the IDF and South Lebanese militia, who were the real peacekeepers in that sensitive area.

He ignored Lebanon's 1949 UN-mediated truce with Israel and he subverted the UN's peacekeeping efforts by endorsing the Cairo Agreement, thus giving Arafat's PLO the "Lebanese sovereignty" Unifil was to restore!

Unifil is still facing backwards. It quarrels with the area's peacekeeping IDF and SLA defenders, and favours any terrorist intruder interested in re-establishing the PLO's reign of terror in South Lebanon. Without Karameh and his agreement, Unifil may be compelled at last to do some commonsense work for peace.

WHEN THE Lebanese Parliament Shi'ites joined the Christians in that historic if belated decision, they demonstrated how far Lebanon is from any "Moslem majority" solution to its problem. The cold fact is, the



(Camera press)

Lebanese Sunnis and Shi'ites cannot work together as a "majority."

The real dimensions of this dramatic change in Lebanon can only be expressed in terms that this secular paper tries to avoid: the terms of Bible prophecy that give Israel its security and significance. It's as senseless to try and explain Middle East events adequately without re-

ference to the Bible, as to try and farm without water or do engineering without mathematics.

In Bible terms, Karameh was the door-opener to the Zechariah 11:1 prophecy of Lebanon's ordeal. "Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars." He was one of the last of the old feudal warlord oligarchs (read: despots)

by the fire that the PLO-ite, the KGB-backed and the Khomeinists fanned, destroying Lebanon.

No principle of history has proved more certain and inexorable than His Genesis 12:3 guarantee to Israel from the very beginning: "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee."

Lebanon came under that curse by the Cairo Agreement, declaring war on Israel again and opening Lebanon's doors to the Zechariah 11:1 prophecy. By the same token, that curse has now been lifted with Lebanon having rescinded that evil pact!

The purpose of this letter is not to condemn Karameh. He has gone to face true justice than any man can grant. But his, or any notion that Syria, the PLO destroyer, Moslem rule, Soviet imperialism, or UN folly offer hope for Lebanon, should be abandoned by anyone with any compassion for the Lebanese.

False hopes died with Karameh, but Lebanon's real hope shines brightly. Isaiah makes it clear that better days lie ahead for the chastened Lebanon, together with Israel.

In context of the best-known (Is. 35:1) prophecy of Zion's restoration, "the desert shall... blossom as the rose," verse 2 says "...the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it...". Given, not taken. The only solution that will restore peace to the Lebanese, God's solution, is for a reluctant Israeli to take on this responsibility, but in a way none can deny.

The writer is the publisher of *Christians in Lebanon*, Montreal.

'Intelligence watchdog needed in Israel'

Ken Schachter

A SKEIN of scandal and failure—Irangate, Pollard, Nafsu, Bus 300—points to the need for an Israeli intelligence oversight agency, a defence analyst argues.

Such a body could be valuable in shaping a cohesive policy out of the work of the Shin Bet, the Mossad and other agencies, said Joseph Alpher, deputy director of the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in a speech.

For example, an Israeli equivalent of the U.S. National Security Council, would have been able to weigh the strategic value of the material provided by American Naval analyst Jonathan Pollard against the backlash in Congress and U.S. public opinion upon his capture.

As a liaison between the intelligence community and the political echelon, an oversight group also could try to wean Israeli leaders

away from the flawed and outdated view that Israel's only salvation lies in wooing "periphery" states, Alpher said. The periphery theory, developed as doctrine by David Ben-Gurion in the early 1950s, called for Jerusalem to court Middle Eastern states and movements that might act as a counterweight to the monolithic Sunni Arab confrontation bloc on Israel's borders.

This theory led to Israeli initiatives to Iran, Turkey and Morocco, as well as insurgent Kurds in Iraq and minority Maronite Christians in Lebanon. But, Alpher said, it failed to take into account that by the late 1970s, the Sunni Arab mainstream had begun to abandon the "monochromatic view... that Israel

must be dealt with by force."

A clear indication of how far attitudes have changed, he said, is that Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi can do business with Israeli arms trader Ya'acov Nimrodi.

"The Arab world doesn't seem to mind in the least," said the former intelligence officer, but such transactions would have been unthinkable 20 years ago.

The periphery theory also holds that the Ayatollah Khomeini's militant Islamic regime is a "passing phenomenon" and that the Teheran regime is valuable to Israel in pinning down Iraq, a confrontation state. As it happened, Israel's approach dovetailed with the periphery theory current in U.S. strategic circles, that Iran is vital to Washington's interests since it sits on the southern periphery of the Soviet Union.

Ultimately, these world views led to the Iran arms sales. Alpher said the list of supposed moderate elements in Iran who could be enticed with arms was never studied by intelligence analysts either in Israel or the U.S. If the list of 700 names had been scrutinized, he said, it would have been exposed for the fraud that it was.

Further, Alpher argued at a meeting of the Israel, Britain and Com-

monwealth Association, Iran is effectively a hostile confrontation state through its proxy, the Hizbullah movement in Lebanon. The Hizbullah wants, Alpher said, "to take the revolution to Jerusalem."

Still, Alpher said, in some ways, the Iran arms affair didn't harm Israel's standing even if the policy was wrongheaded.

"We're in the Middle East and the image of an Israel that can wheel and deal with Iran, the Saudis and the U.S. is one of power," he said.

"They will respect that Israel can play such a central role. Alpher acknowledged that Washington stumbled into the Iran arms sales quagmire despite its National Security Agency, but attributed that failure to defects in the NSC staff. If you mean it with Col. Oliver North, a prime player in the Iran arms scandal, "it's bound to go away," Alpher said.

But aside from the issue of intelligence oversight, Israel should finally consign the periphery theory to the dustbin of history.

"Are we going to forever be a Middle East minority that's going to try to make alliances with a hedge-podge of peripheral states?" Alpher asked. Israel "must take into account the moderate currents in the Arab world around us."

A growing problem

EGYPT'S population increased by 2.8 per cent annually during the last decade and now stands at almost 50.5 million, a senior official said recently.

Mukhtar Hallouda, director of the government's Central Mobilization and Statistics Authority, said the census counted 50.45 million Egyptians, including about 2.25 million working or living abroad.

A census taken in 1976 showed there were 38 million Egyptians. Many Egyptians abroad work in Arab countries. Their salary remittances constitute the government's largest source of foreign currency.

Hallouda said the count also showed that illiteracy among Egyptians dropped by about 8 per cent to

49.4 per cent in the last decade. During the same period, he said, the number of Egyptians with university degrees and higher diplomas doubled from 2.2 per cent to 4.4 per cent.

The Egyptian family presently averages 4.9 people, living 1.5 to a room, he said.

Some 9.75 million people—almost a fifth of the population—live in greater Cairo, which comprises the capital city and its suburbs.

The population of Cairo proper is 6 million, an increase of 19.3 per cent over the 1976 figure.

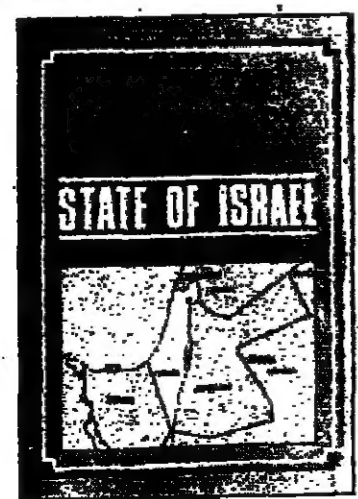
(Associated Press)

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani.

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Edited by Susan Hattis Rolef

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High tech catches up with the Beduin

Doron Pely

BEDUIN TRIBES in the Negev desert are jumping into the twentieth century by leaps and bounds. In a trend seen by some as a blessing and by others a curse, more and more tribes are abandoning their nomadic life to settle in permanent villages. Now, with the introduction of computer-based educational systems into two Beduin settlements, the full force of the world of high-tech has caught up with them.

Grade schools in the villages of Aroer and Kseife, south of Beersheba, are the first strictly Arabic-speaking schools in Israel to use a sophisticated tutoring and student evaluation computer system, developed by the Centre for Educational Technology in Tel Aviv.

Each of the two NIS 60,000 systems contains a central computer and 32 work stations. The system enables guided instruction in reading comprehension, mathematics, English and geometry, as well as an introduction to computer science, data bases, wordprocessing, simulations and puzzle-solving games. Similar systems are already in operation in 370 schools in Israel.

The introduction of computers into the two village schools aroused the curiosity of other Beduin communities in the Negev. The city council of Rahat, the largest Beduin

settlement in Israel, and other villages are currently examining the feasibility of integrating similar systems into their schools.

One of the major difficulties encountered with the systems is the fact that they are strictly Hebrew-based. Since the primary language of instruction in the Beduin sector is Arabic, an accelerated process of translation is taking place, with the aid of Beduin teachers. Amos Ronat, sales manager at the Centre for Educational Technology, hopes that next year the entire system will be converted to Arabic, enabling a larger number of students to make use of its services.

Teachers from both villages received instruction on how to integrate the system with traditional classroom instruction methods, and how to interpret the individual progress reports that the system generates.

PERMANENT BEDUIN settlements in the Negev are, largely, a result of the peace treaty with Egypt. Currently, there are 17 grade schools, one high school, and 22 day care centres operating in the Beduin sector in the Negev. They serve some 8,100 children from 32 different tribes. The villages of Aroer and Kseife have 8,500 residents, and the two computerized grade schools serve 3,100 students from the villages and neighbouring settlements. The reaction of the Beduin



Dealing with the most sophisticated equipment - a young Beduin enters the computer age. (Yoram Weinberg)

population to the introduction of high tech into their environment is enthusiastic, according to Moshe Shochat, general manager of the Beduin Education Authority in Beersheba. "At first, they didn't know how to react to the new system, but they got used to it very quickly. Now we have parents of pupils coming to us to ask about buying micro-computers for home

use," said Shochat, initiator of the current project. The contrast between the stark surroundings of the Beduin settlements and the high-gloss shine of computer equipment is marked. "There is something beautiful in this mixture. People here live in tents and huts, and deal with the most sophisticated equipment," said Shochat.

'Schools slow in adjusting to high tech'

Lea Levavi



TOO MANY Israeli schools are not making sufficient use of the computers they have purchased, MK Nahman Raz, chairman of the Knesset Committee, said at a recent study day on computers in education sponsored by Malal Computer Systems Ltd. and held at the Ramat Aviv Hotel.

Some schools use computers intensively, he said, but others use them for only a few hours a week. Teachers and parents are reluctant to enter this new world of computers. "I remember how long it took to convince teachers to use slide projectors. Technology is advancing so fast today, though, that we don't have the time to wait until teachers can adjust."

He also stressed the importance of bringing computer technology into Arab schools - perhaps giving them a special push to help them catch up with Jewish schools.

Malal's general manager Amiram Shore admitted that an engineer approaching retirement age who didn't want to abandon his slide rule in favour of new technology, may be able to get away with it. A teacher cannot afford that luxury.

"You have to teach the next generation to deal with what they're going to find at work... Banks as we know them, with tellers behind counters, will disappear. They will be replaced by a wall fitted with gadgets which will process the customer's banking needs by voice commands. The role of the school and teachers will also change in the coming years and middle level clerical functions will probably disappear."

the pupil's computers are connected to the teacher's computer in a "slave-master" relationship. "Many schools spend so much on hardware that they have no money left for software," he said. "These networks can cut costs, allowing you to buy certain equipment once instead of having to buy several dozen for all the pupils' computers." The teacher can see what each pupil is doing and can intervene by typing instructions onto the pupil's screen or by instructing the computer to give the pupil different exercises.

He warned, however, that there are disadvantages to the networks. Though many educational programs let the computer assess the pupils' level and give them the appropriate exercises, research has shown that users learn to cheat the system by getting given easier work and attaining higher grades, Alexander said.

Neither do the networks provide any opportunity for interaction between pupils doing the same exercises.

"There is also the 'Big Brother' problem. Theoretically at least, an official at the Ministry of Education could, if he knew the right codes, find out exactly what a specific school, class or child was doing. I'm not sure all of us would want them to have that level of control," Alexander added.

The study day included a demonstration of software for administration of schools - from working out teachers' and pupils' timetables to keeping personnel records, preparing pupils' report cards and book-keeping.

DR. GAD Alexander of Ben-Gurion University talked about local area communication networks in schools. These are systems whereby

Up to data

Computer briefs/Doron Pely

IF YOUR weekly attempts to become an instant millionaire by forecasting the outcome of more than a dozen football games go unrewarded, you might want to go high-tech.

Totochna, a new computer program developed by Top Soft, will do the work for you. All you have to do is feed your choice of winners into the computer. The machine will then do its magic and supply you with a statistical report that will, in turn, be translated (automatically of course) into recommended Toto choices. If you own a printer, the program will even fill out the forms for you. It seems like the only thing the program will not do is pay the fun. But, as the company says on its brochure: "There's nothing to lose. Try and you'll see." Of course, all you can lose is money. Good luck.

A LITTLE late, but better late than never, Top Soft have developed a personal computer program that will follow the state of an investment portfolio.

The Broker program will give you the current value of your stocks and bonds, with a graphic picture of the financial history of the particular item. A losing trend, demonstrated by a downward curve, should be an excellent indication that a particular stock should be sold - fast. If all else fails, try the Totochna.

A PERSONAL computer program that identifies restricted bank accounts and alerts store owners has been developed by Macham, a computerized economic information company from Tel Aviv.

A restricted bank account is one that has registered at least 10 bounced (uncovered) cheques in three months. There are currently around 40,000 such accounts in Israel.

The program user will receive, for a monthly fee of NIS 25 a computer-ready list of restricted accounts derived from Bank of Israel sources.

When the computer identifies a restricted account number on a cheque made out by a potential customer it beeps and flashes, alerting the store owner. Since bouncing cheques is almost a national sport, there might be a great demand for this program.

* NEW PROGRAMMES FOR MACINTOSH LOTUS Software, one of the largest computer program developers in the world, is developing a new package of programs for Apple's Macintosh.

The Galaxy package will include a data bank, communication program, word processor, electronic work sheet and a graphic editor. The programs are designed to give complete cover to the needs of new and veteran Macintosh users. Lotus says the package will be better than its own famous Lotus 1-2-3.

* COMPUTER TO AID HEAD WOUND VICTIMS A COMPUTER program to help treat head wound victims has been developed by Dr. Max Stern from the Levinstein hospital and Prof. Elyazar Azriel from the Technion.

The program, which was developed on a Macintosh home computer, contains 11 lessons designed to assist persons suffering brain damage as the result of a head wound. It helps them overcome the problems they encounter in clear thinking, formulating hypotheses and logical rules, by deriving logical conclusions and expanding the boundaries of their mental capacities.

Therapists are using the computer's graphic capabilities to increase the motivation and curiosity of their patients.

* SUPER-FAST COMPUTER CONTROL DATA Corporation has announced the development of the world's fastest super-computer. The new ETA 10 computer can perform up to 10,000 million operations per second. It contains eight parallel processors, each of which can operate at speeds up to five times

faster than former models. The first super-computer was purchased by the University of Florida. Super-fast computers are used by many research institutes to assist solving complex physics, chemistry, space, nuclear and mechanical engineering problems as well as for weather forecasting assignments. Conventional computers turned out to be 'too slow' for many of these projects.

THE UNITED NATIONS' Environmental Protection Agency (Unep) has started a large-scale programme for recording and storing information about all the natural resources and all the ecological and climatic changes on land, sea and air, throughout the world.

The Global Resource Information Database (Grid) will be able to supply information to UN members and any other industrial or governmental body preparing to launch an environmentally sensitive development project.

The data bank is based on computers spread over a number of centres around the world and connected by a communication network. Environmental protection agencies and related government agencies around the world will supply the data.

The project was conceived during the 1974 UN convention on environmental issues in Stockholm. Lately, following dire ecological forecasts relating to acid rain damage, air pollution and a decrease in available tillable land, the project received fresh impetus.

One of its first assignments is the

evaluation of potential damage to the world's ozone layer. Ozone is a gas that plays a major role in protecting life on earth from the disastrous effect of exposure to ultra violet radiation.

The Grid project is sponsored by the American space agency Nasa, the Swiss and Norwegian governments, the University of Geneva, and UN agencies. Project leaders hope to be able to install a communication computer in every country on earth and to make the data bank available for ecological research world-wide.

MILCH-COW management has long been a sophisticated branch of agriculture. The latest leap into high-tech milking has been taken by the "Gavish" software company at Kibbutz Givat Brenner, which developed a personal computer program that controls feeding, milking, medication and herd management.

The new program is the fourth in a line of high-tech herd-management tools developed by Gavish. Dutch milk farmers have already purchased the programs, and the University of California at Davis will become the principal instruction centre for agricultural students, according to the company spokesman.

THE COMMODORE Corporation has developed a new personal computer, Amiga 500.

A modest version of the first Amiga, it is aimed at the home and educational markets. The computer is equipped with graphic, audio and



Reshuf Computers' Beta-20, a portable hard disc for personal computers with storage capacity of up to 20 million characters.

video processors and is capable of creating video clips with stereo soundtrack, superimposed on conventional computer graphics. The basic price of the new computer will be around NIS 1,800, and it will be available through Tadiran Computers.

The NCR Corporation has also announced the launching of a new line of personal computers. The PC 710, PC 810 and PC 916 are geared for the business user, and are capable of accommodating a multi-user system which allows more than one person to use the computers simul-

taneously. PC 710 and PC 810 are based on Intel's 80286 micro-processor. PC 916 is based on the new Intel 80386, a faster and more powerful version of the 80286. All computers are capable of handling conventional 5.25 inch disk drives as well as the new 3.5 inch drives.

MLL COMPUTERS has developed a new computer program to control and supervise administrative and legal activity in lawyer offices. The "Dinai" program is capable of handling clients' files from the initial contact with the client until his last payment has been made. It is also an accounting tool and a data bank of legal notes, court decisions, precedents and opinions. The data bank can link up with other data banks at home and abroad to draw and send information. Another module supplies the program with wordprocessing, electronic work-

sheet and electronic telex capabilities.

ELDOR COMPUTERS has announced a new IBM-compatible personal computer, Dor III.

This is a business computer with processing speed claimed to be 3.2 times faster than that of the comparable IBM computer. It is equipped with a communication and printer hookup, battery-backed clock, graphic and color adaptors and MS/DOS 3.2 operating system.

AN ADULT computer literacy course has been initiated in Rishon LeZion. The course is designed to provide basic computer skills to non-professional adults. Instruction is under the supervision of the Open University, and 70 students registered for the first course. They will be using Olivetti personal computers from the Open University's mobile computer centre.

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Insurance for bits and bytes

FAMOUS dancers insure their legs. They know that a malfunctioning toe can stop the show. When a major computer goes on the blink, it, too, brings things to a screeching halt.

As computers become an integral part of the business world, the insurance industry is trying to come up with a policy that will cover companies against damages and profit losses resulting from computer breakdowns.

Once a computer is in place and functioning, there is no way back to the old methods. But the potentially disastrous effects of a computer malfunction are not yet fully recognized. There's just no experience to learn from.

"The dependence of large companies on their computers is increasing, yet many users are not aware of the great damage that can result from this dependence," says Arye Weiss, deputy general manager at the Israeli Phoenix insurance company.

Weiss's company has developed an insurance policy to protect clients from the potential damage of the new technology. A relatively simple malfunction can cause a major loss of profits. The destruction of a com-

puterized delivery record can hold up a shipment of goods and cost the company a fortune in fines and other punitive payments.

The rapid development of new products makes compensation according to equipment value an obsolete notion: most used computer equipment has a very low resale value. Computer insurance policies should cover replacement costs to allow the insured party to continue operating regardless of price differences.

But the most troubling aspect of loss assessment is the evaluation of programs and data stored on damaged equipment. In case of damage to computer storage devices, the new computer policy will pay not only for the machines, but for the expense of reconstructing the lost data and programs.

A single grain of dust, lodged in the wrong place, can bring a huge computer literally to a grinding halt. If not prepared, a company might discover that the effort to modernize can end up in bankruptcy. D.P.

The Computer page is edited by Joana Yehiel.

THE HEALTH MINISTRY

Malpractice goes unpunished

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Post Health and Science Reporter

If your doctor, nurse, dentist or pharmacist has been accused of negligence, he is as likely to be disciplined by the Health Ministry as you are to win the national lottery.

The State Comptroller, in his chapter on the ministry, finds that in only a minority of cases are investigations launched, and when they are, the hearings are often held off for so long that they are eventually cancelled. The licences of only a handful of medical professionals have been suspended for a few months. As for criminal proceedings, only one dentist had been sent to prison after being convicted of negligence that resulted in the death of a three-year-old girl, and he was released after serving four months of a six-month term - he was given the rest off for good behaviour.

In the past 17 years, the licences of only one assistant pharmacist and two physicians have been revoked. One of the doctors asked for a re-issuing of the licence after a year, and received it, the comptroller found. In that same period, 15 doctors had their licences suspended for anywhere from a month to a half year; four dentists and one dental practitioner (*merape shnayim*) for one to three months; two pharmacists for five days and three months; a nurse for two years; and a midwife for a month.

The comptroller found that the ministry does not deal with complaints from the public efficiently enough, "even when the law allows it." Even a small mistake can cause the loss of life in such professions. Disciplining negligent people is a prime weapon in reducing such occurrences, concludes the comptroller, who demands that the top officials in the ministry devote their attention to the problem.

The ministry receives 900 complaints of negligence a year, although not all are necessarily justified. In 1983, 27 investigatory committees were established, compared with 40 in 1984, 48 in 1985 and 41 during the first eight months of 1986. In most of the cases under review, patients died. The ministry had insufficient information on which of these hearings were completed and what recommendations were made.

As an example of long delays in hearings, the comptroller cites a committee set up in November 1983 that held its first meeting only 18 months later.

Cases against seven dentists have remained open since 1985, without the ministry doing anything about

them. No hearings have been conducted regarding psychologists, because the ministry has not yet completed a bill under consideration that would set down principles of their professional ethics.

The ministry was also found to be profoundly ignorant about the number of working and non-working doctors, nurses and medical professionals in other fields. Nor has it bothered to keep statistical records, so how - asks the comptroller - can it make manpower plans for the coming year?

There is a great surplus of physicians in this country, according to

Nationwide fluoridization of the water could drastically reduce dental caries; in this eventuality, the surplus of dentists that would result could be trained in related areas like orthodontics, periodontics and dental surgery.

There is such a shortage of pharmacists in the public sector that many Kipat Holim pharmacies have had to close or shorten reception hours. Over a quarter of the health fund's pharmacists are over 60.

The ministry has only estimates of the number of working nurses - 20,000 - but many of these work part-time and many are not reg-

istered. The shortage of nurses is acute, especially in geriatrics, where few want to work. The ministry set up a course for geriatric nurses, but could not get enough applicants.

Other fields with a lack of nurses are nephrology, psychiatry, internal medicine and surgery. In the next decade, as many as 1,500 nurses and assistants will be needed for geriatric institutions.

The comptroller warns that while Israeli medicine has achieved great things, it is lacking in the important field of treating and nursing patients with chronic and geriatric problems. The comptroller calls on the ministry to conduct a broad survey of professionals in each field so that it can deal with manpower problems.

Serious faults were found in the management of Haifa's government-run Rambam Hospital. There were long waits for doctors in the emergency room and inadequate filling out of medical information in files. As in the rest of the country, experts in emergency medicine are not available, because it is not recognized as a specialty here, though it is in the U.S. and elsewhere. Thus, some of the doctors do not have the adequate knowledge and experience to deal with all the problems that turn up in the emergency room.

Some patients waited two or three hours in emergency before a doctor was free to attend them, the comptroller found. Transfer to hospital departments of patients who finally were checked by doctors was slow. Terminal cancer patients requiring care suffered the most in the long waits, often causing confrontations between patients' relatives and hospital staff.

The war against drug abuse, an inter-ministerial effort, was also checked by the comptroller. The Health Ministry is involved, along with the Labour and Social Affairs, and Education ministries, and the police.

The government, the report declares, has not given this battle a high enough priority, in funds, manpower or programmes. There are an estimated 15,000 hard-core drug addicts in the country, and about 200,000 one-time or sometime users of hard drugs. But only a few hundred are cared for in institutions or programmes.

The Education Ministry lags behind in educational efforts to explain the danger of drugs in schools, and there is too little cooperation among the authorities.

By DAVID ROSENBERG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Like Godot in the Samuel Beckett play, one waits for Industry Minister Ariel Sharon to eventually make an appearance in the State Comptroller's report on his ministry's handling of lamb imports. The problem was that none were authorized, despite the fact that local production could not meet local demand. But Sharon never figures in the report, and the comptroller insists there is good reason for that.

The lamb import affair forms the most interesting part of the State Comptroller's report on the Industry and Trade Ministry, which also includes criticisms of how aid to enterprises in a financial jam and for research and development is distributed. A separate chapter is devoted to how investment aid was provided to start up a plastic-container plant.

In the past, Israel imported as much as 1,000 tons of frozen lamb between November and March, to supplement local production, which is mainly higher-priced fresh lamb.

A subcommittee comprising the Agriculture Ministry's director-general and officials from other ministries would meet each year to recommend the price and quantities of the lamb imports, which were set so as not to injure local producers. The subcommittee's recommendation was then routinely forwarded by the director-general of the Industry and Trade Ministry to an inter-ministerial panel for approval.

However, in recent years, the subcommittee's recommendations never got past the director-general and no lamb imports were approved. The resulting shortage forced lamb prices up.

In November 1984, the subcommittee set imports for the following season at 400 tons; in September 1985 it recommended that 350 tons be imported; and in May 1986 it again recommended 500 tons. In all three cases, the Industry Ministry director-general failed to pass along the recommendations, telling the State Comptroller by way of an explanation that he was not required to do so.

The shortage of lamb caused by the failure to import frozen meat led to such a serious shortfall that in the summer of 1986 a number of importers applied for permission to bring in 1,250 tons of live lamb and another 600 tons of frozen meat. Again, the subcommittee met and this time suggested 600 tons of frozen meat be imported at \$5.65 a kilo, equal to local costs plus profit. Again, the recommendations languished with the Industry Ministry director-general.

The comptroller was told that the Industry Ministry regarded sheep-breeding as an important sector of the economy that would be threatened by imports, especially in development areas.

In addition, Agriculture Ministry officials said the shortage created by the absence of imports would create an opportunity to expand the sector.

The comptroller was not impressed with these arguments. His report notes that the imported price would have been higher than the local price, even though fresh lamb is preferred by most consumers to In any case, the effect of the

THE INDUSTRY MINISTRY

Why lamb is so dear

import ban was to boost the price per kilo to \$4 in September 1986, from \$3.00 in previous years, although it costs only about \$2.70 a kilo to the breeders.

Sharon figured prominently in the affair when it surfaced last January, when the press alleged that he had personally profited from higher lamb prices to the tune of \$65,000. But at last week's press conference, State Comptroller Ya'acov Malz said he found nothing to implicate the minister.

The ministry's fund for helping companies facing a temporary cash squeeze often approved aid to applicants that were clearly unqualified. In one case a company that had been in financial difficulties since it was founded and had been a recipient of government aid as early as 1969, received more than \$1 million in 1985. Its losses in recent years had been largely due to its extensive purchases of capital equipment with borrowed money.

In addition, the company filed its annual report for the year to March 31, 1985 unaudited and more than a year late, in violation of the aid committee's rules.

However, the company never received the loan, because it went into receivership in September 1986.

In another instance, a food-manufacturing company in the North got NIS 1m. in assistance even though, through a good part of 1985, its capital costs were running at 124 per cent of sales, giving it a negative capital of NIS 5.4m. at the end of its fiscal year. The comptroller found one of the plant's owners was charging a steep 20 per cent commission to market its products.

The comptroller concludes that the loan could never cover the bank debts. The plant was running only at 35 per cent capacity. 20 percentage points below its break-even point, because of a lack of raw materials. The report suggests that boosting the company's raw material quota would have been a more appropriate solution.

In any case the plant was acquired last November by a concern that controls 86 per cent of the local market for its goods, so that the loans were not needed after all.

The ministry also provides aid for research and development, with the understanding that the recipients will pay the government royalties on any product successfully developed. But after inspecting records for 1980-85, the State Comptroller found the system was functioning badly.

After the one or two years it takes to bring a product to market, the royalties committee is supposed to check on its progress, either closing the file if the R & D produced nothing marketable or beginning a half yearly monitoring of sales to collect royalties of 1 or 2 per cent.

The comptroller found that these sales reports were not properly stored and contained errors and outdated information. Of some 50 R & D projects approved in 1982, there were no files on 21. In some of these cases, the report says, no money had been disbursed, or the research had been stopped midway, or the programme had failed. Nineteen files had not been updated.

Often, the royalties committee miscalculated the amount due. In one instance, a \$10,535 grant to a textile company had yielded just \$10,037 in royalties by the time the file on it was closed in February 1986. But the comptroller found it should have paid NIS 21,214, or \$14,330.

When an R & D grant covered only part of a company's research or was used to finance development of a production process rather than a saleable product, the comptroller found the committee had no formula to determine what royalties it was entitled to.

The State Comptroller spotlighted a particularly questionable decision when the ministry's Investment Centre agreed to provide \$5.1m. to a plastic-carton factory.

The concern applied in August 1985, to build a plant on a development zone A site and it forecast sales of \$6m., a third for export. In January 1986, the Industrial Development Bank concluded it was a viable venture, on the basis of a new company proposal in which the plant would employ 12 but require a \$3.9m. investment. The Industry Ministry's chemical-industry experts, however, were less convinced. They insisted that that company would have to export half its output, which they doubted it could do, to be viable. They recommended the investors put up a guarantee equal to half the aid requested.

The Investment Centre committee rejected the application because of strong opposition from ministry experts. But, the investors were able to get the minutes changed from outright rejection to a discussion of the proposed project, after coming up with new information they contended supported the project.

The Investment Centre Committee met again in April and approved a \$3.9m. in aid, this time with chemical-industry experts, without demanding any guarantee. The comptroller says, however, that the new information was not significant enough to justify a new discussion.

Two months later, the company applied to increase its investment to NIS 9.6m. primarily to buy various kinds of equipment. Again, the ministry's experts rejected the application, saying that the equipment should only cost \$500,000 and that the plant would not be able to export at the levels needed to succeed. Nevertheless, the Investment Centre committee met again in September 1986 and approved another \$5.1m.

THE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Where does the money go?

By ASHER WALLFISH

Post Knesset Reporter

Financial impropriety and administrative mismanagement have grown worse rather than improved over the past three or four years at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

This is despite the forceful intervention of the High Court of Justice and the attorney-general, according to the State Comptroller.

No sooner had the attorney-general, inspired by the High Court, laid down new rules for financial subsidies, than the ministry and the beneficiary bodies began finding ways around those rules. The comptroller observes that in cases where the beneficiary bodies adjusted their structure to the new rules, they tried to do so in a way that would ensure they received more funds from the public purse than before, and, in some cases, even managed to enjoy double subsidies.

The comptroller quotes the director-general of the Ministry of Religious Affairs as saying his department is essentially a pipeline for the transfer of government funds to religious institutions.

In fact, the comptroller's figures show that the ministry hardly exists in its own right. In 1985, when it had a budget of NIS 85.6 million, it passed NIS 64m. of this on, in the form of grants and subsidies.

The comptroller probed, among others, an Ottoman association belonging to the Tami party called the "Tradition of Generations, Social and Cultural Activity" and discovered that it organized weekend parties at hotels for its members.

The association received state funds as long as Tami was inside the commission. This stopped when the national unity government was formed in 1984, without the Tami Party. The association became inactive in 1985 and closed down its branches, except for an office in Tel Aviv which had three staff members.

Although the association claimed that 30 per cent of its money went towards cultural and educational projects, it supplied no documentation to prove it. The office of the association is part of the Tami Party office, and its bookkeeper is also Tami's bookkeeper. Similarly, one treasurer serves both, although that position is now paid by the association.

Unequal distribution of Religious Affairs Ministry funds was exposed when the Habad movement appealed to the High Court in December 1983 claiming that its educational institutions were being discriminated against by the Orthodox MKs who divided up the budget.

The High Court ordered the government to lay down clear and fair criteria.

A Treasury official told the comptroller that in 1985 there was so much pressure to make sure all the funds were distributed before the fiscal year ended that there was no time to examine the applications. The official said he had assumed the Religious Ministry would undertake such an examination later.

The two funding officials did not keep adequate records of their meetings, and the comptroller was thus unable to determine what basis they had for making their decisions.

The director-general of the Religious Affairs Ministry was quoted as saying that his department was in no way obliged to examine the institutions which receive state funds.

Establishing criteria for the distribution of budget funds to religious institutions was intended to ensure equality and impartiality. The comptroller says that although the two senior officials in charge should have used these criteria to evaluate each of the applying institutions carefully, they failed to do so. The two were also in contact with politicians who influenced their budgetary decisions, the comptroller adds.

Youth organizations constitute one important group of beneficiary institutions. The Ministry laid down specific criteria for this group, in collaboration with the attorney-general and the Treasury. It failed totally to implement them. In fact, the comptroller found that half of the beneficiaries in this group were not youth organizations at all, but rather religious study circles.

Almost all the beneficiaries failed to meet the Education Ministry's standard definition of a "youth organization" by a long way, the comptroller notes. Moreover, they never submitted records of their accounts, budget proposals, or addresses of local branches either before or after receiving their allocations from the Religious Affairs Ministry. The only youth organization which did supply all the appropriate documentation was B'nei Akiva, which is affiliated

with the National Religious Party.

Shas persuaded both the Ministry and the Treasury to subsidize a youth organization to be called "B'nei Yishai," which did not exist at the time. The comptroller states that although B'nei Yishai was not a genuine youth organization to start with, it was allocated more money than all other youth organizations - both genuine and not.

Shas likewise obtained money for a proposed women's organization, claiming that when established it would have 50,000 members and 50 branches.

Although the attorney-general's office ordered the Ministry to give this non-existent group only 10 per cent of the money until it actually got off the ground, the Ministry gave it 50 per cent of the allocated amount.

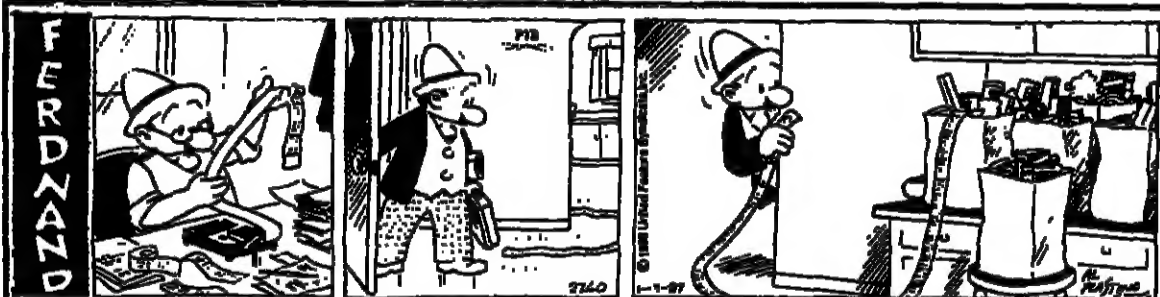
The Ministry gave money to two other women's organizations as well - one belonging to the Habad movement and one to the National Religious Party.

Shas also asked for money in the category of "educational centres," stating its intention to establish a "centre for Torah education in the tradition of Oriental Jewry." The Sephardi party also asked the Education Ministry for funds for the same cause. The ministry agreed, provided certain criteria were met, while the Religious Affairs Ministry never bothered with any such criteria, the comptroller notes.

The Religious Affairs Ministry and the Treasury agreed that the Shas centre and five others should receive state aid in order to cover their bank deficits. Details of those deficits were never called for, however.

The attorney-general ruled that Shas should get only 10 per cent of the centre's potential annual allocation, until it could prove that the centre actually existed. The same was true of another not-yet-established network belonging to an ultra-Orthodox Ashkenazi body. In fact, both got their entire allocations without proving they were functioning.

The comptroller points out that behind the Shas Party strategy lay an Ottoman association called "El Hamayan," split into three separate groups: one for youth; one for women; and one for education. It requested funds for all three, in an attempt to maximize the amount it might receive.



CROSSWORD

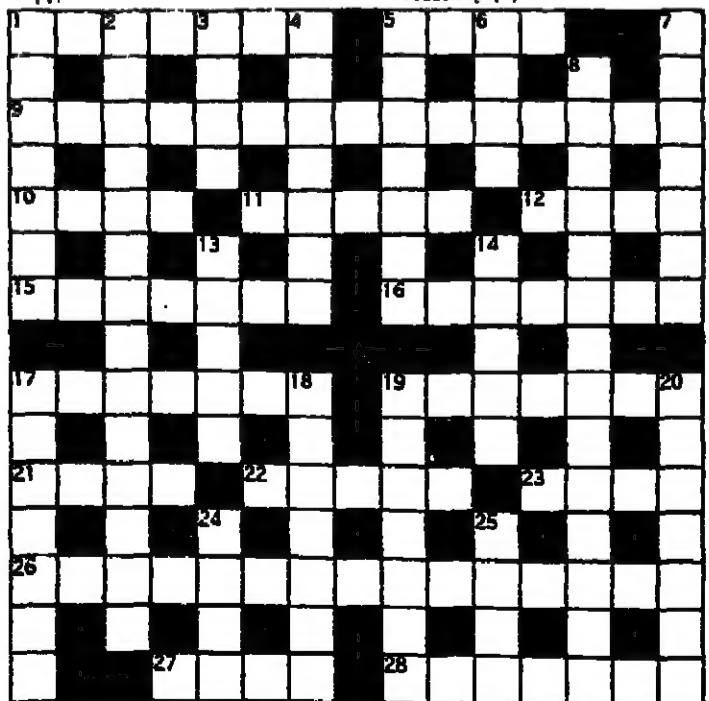
- ACROSS**
- 1 To want a snake to appear inside is stingingly spiteful! (7)
 - 5 Room for most of the orchestra (4)
 - 9 Sell well at the zoo? (2,1,7,5)
 - 10 Quits the flat (4)
 - 11 Fastime, becomes obsessive when horse involved (5)
 - 12 South American once found in Callao (4)
 - 15 Can rule out a type of energy (7)
 - 16 Let rigs be reconstructed with tough flexible tissue (7)
 - 17 Thomas, a cricketer, say, has a game (7)
 - 19 Hurried away on hearing a rumour (7)
 - 21 King has order for a garment (4)

- 22 Right after the drink comes a warning of danger (5)
- 23 Repetition of sound from a screech-owl (4)
- 26 Lack of understanding in a school exercise (15)
- 27 A bad habit that is hard to get out of (4)
- 28 Gummy leg Dane twisted having worked in the cornfield (7)

- 6 Mostly a machine for turning a narrow strip of wood (4)
- 7 Clergyman both before and after the due time (7)
- 8 Top of the bill, the principal reason for going to the seaside? (4,10)
- 13 The Spanish in the Foreign Office name the criminal (5)
- 14 Note could be going either way (5)
- 17 Go dull like a mountain lake? (7)
- 18 Free to a great extent it would seem (2,5)
- 19 Wild African pig developed a growth (7)
- 20 Went down in the water the doctor admitted (7)
- 24 Member in the team of warriors (4)
- 25 Stake for mountain climbing? (4)

DOWN

- 1 Another kind of winged duck (7)
- 2 Return to acting (5,1,4,4)
- 3 One old revolutionary god (4)
- 4 Bar renovated in time to give shelter (7)
- 5 Workman to pocket a female accessory (7)

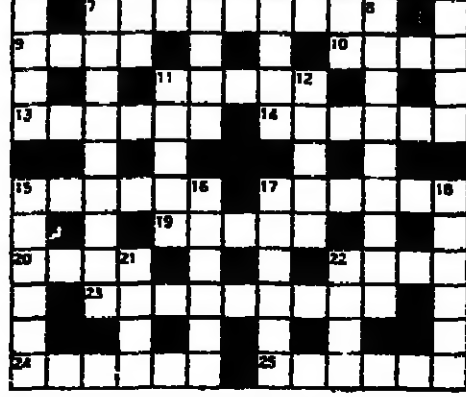


Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS: 1 Lemon, 4 Neighed, 8 Amounts, 9 Pluto, 10 Inert, 11 Layette, 13 Omen, 15 Grappa, 17 Needle, 20 Scar, 22 Prelate, 24 Undue, 26 Alarm, 27 Trident, 28 Theatre, 29 Elder.

DOWN: 1 Leaving, 2 Moose, 3 Non-stop, 4 Nestle, 5 Imply, 6 Haunted, 7 Drone, 12 Anna, 14 Mast, 16 Average, 18 Erudite, 19 Ejector, 21 Centre, 23 Plait, 25 Admit, 26 Dread.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Getting on
 - 4 Fold
 - 7 Not
 - 9 Hardy heroine
 - 10 Sword
 - 11 English author
 - 13 Painter
 - 14 English city
 - 15 Shut
 - 17 Dog
 - 19 Honey-badger
 - 20 N. Wales resort
 - 22 Beauf
 - 23 Chew
 - 24 Three-legged stand
 - 25 Trill

- DOWN**
- 1 Went without food
 - 2 Wading bird
 - 3 Amass
 - 4 Bird
 - 5 One of the Great Lakes
 - 6 Stretch out
 - 7 Nom de plume
 - 8 Timely
 - 9 Postpone
 - 10 Eject
 - 11 Vegetable
 - 12 Moved rapidly
 - 13 Walrus (5-3)
 - 14 Reprimand
 - 15 Palm (anag.)
 - 16 Asterisk

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Ramat Gan: Kfar Sava, Shouet, 78 Ahuz, Ramat Gan.

Netanya: Tzurim, 2 Herd, 28656.

Kiryat Shmona: No details available.

Haifa: Kiryat Eliazar, 8 Kirat Meyerhoff, 511707.

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Carmiel: 588855, **Netanya:** 22333
Dan Region: 781111, **Petah Tikva:** 5231111
Elit: 72333, **Rehovot:** 451333
Haifa: 523333, **Rishon LeZion:** 94333
Haifa: 512233, **Safed:** 30333
Hatzer: 936333, **Tel Aviv:** 5480111
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Ruppin Health Information Centre Tel. 03-625200, 625200 Sunday/Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Coping with a pandemic

THE SPECTRE of Aids, diagnosed and given a name less than a decade ago, is these days haunting the civilized world. It is being regarded as the plague of the modern age, especially as it has become evident that the disease is, at the moment, resistant to any available cure, and that an anti-Aids vaccine is not expected for a long time yet.

While the first "high-risk" groups in regard to Aids in the West were such minority groups as homosexuals, prostitutes and intravenous drug users, the disease has more recently been transmitted by bisexuals to heterosexuals. And it is the latter, especially in Africa, who will most probably also constitute a majority of the up to three million new Aids cases which the World Health Organization expects during just the next five years, from infections already contracted around the world.

In Israel figures on the incidence of Aids are highly unreliable. Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino has pronounced herself satisfied that only 200 people in this country have tested positive on Aids. But these are people who voluntarily submitted themselves to tests in one of the seven hospital testing centres for Aids. How many there are who, unknown to themselves, may be carrying the disease is simply not known.

Even assuming that Israel, for all its close ties to Europe and the U.S., is relatively free of Aids, this only means it may still have time to take vigorous preventive measures against the epidemic, of the kind already being taken in the U.S. and Europe.

The taking of such measures is what the Health Ministry promised during an "information day" on Aids held, largely for the benefit of the media, in April of last year. The ministry undertook to launch an educational campaign with a view to advising the public on the implications of the disease, and on ways of avoiding it. It said it would focus attention principally on educating the "high-risk" groups. So far it has not done even this much, or little.

Whatever information on Aids has been disseminated among Israeli homosexuals was the product of their own initiative. No concerted effort has been made to reach prostitutes, who are reported to be playing their trade as vigorously as ever, oblivious to the danger to themselves and to their clients. Drug addicts are left to learn from the media, both local and foreign, of the threat they are running by not dropping their habit, or at least by not seeing to it that the needles, or syringes, they use are clean.

It seems the official fear of offending those local guardians of morality who see the cure to Aids largely in abstinence from sex before or outside marriage, and who do not care to hear about "safe sex" because they consider any public discussion of sex an abomination, is greater than the fear of Aids.

What Aids is, has perhaps been best stated by one of its leading medical investigators, Dr. Robert Gallo. "Aids," he said, "is not a disease of homosexuals or drug addicts or indeed of any particular risk group. The virus is spread by intimate contact, and the form of contact seems to be less important than the contact itself... Until a reliable vaccine is developed, intelligent caution and an understanding of the disease are the best weapons against its spread."

Could this really be news to the Ministry of Health?

DRUSE

(Continued from Page One)

that dozens of files had been opened on people suspected of being involved in the rioting.

Police said the attackers had been armed with stones, knives, chains and batons. Among the injured police and Border Police were some Druse, including one resident of Beit Jann.

One Beit Jann resident who has worked as a policeman for over 12 years has asked to be relieved of his duties because of a "conflict of interest."

The man, who has returned to the village, said he would join other residents on guard at the tent camp, even if it brought him into conflict with his police comrades.

Beit Jann local council chairman

Shafik Assad yesterday expressed his "sincere regrets" over Monday's clashes. He maintained, however, that the police had instigated the violence.

"The tent camp was established nearly a month ago on land that belongs to Beit Jann residents," said Assad.

"We recently reached an agreement with the police and all the interested parties that there would be no change in the status quo while negotiations were being conducted with the ministers of agriculture and energy to resolve the land dispute," he said.

The residents are demanding the release to their control of some 12,000 dunams of land, in the wild-life sanctuary, to which they claim ownership.

CLIFF-HANGER

(Continued from Page One)

shift its lobbying efforts to the third version of the Who is a Jew bill - the Rabbinical Courts Law - which is still waiting in the wings. MK Haim Kaufman, one of the Likud's main Knesset "vote collectors," said last night that if the proposals failed, he would seek a change in the Knesset's guidelines which currently prohibit a retabbing of the laws for at least six months.

Shas' continuing support for the government hinges on an "honourable" showing by the bill's supporters. Sources close to the party said last night that their "red lines" are fixed at at least 56 votes in favour of the proposals, of which "at least 39" must come from the Likud's 41 MKs. The Likud said last night that it had lived up to its agreement with Shas by making a strenuous effort to garner the needed Knesset majority.

Labour still considers Tehiya, which yesterday repeated its ultimatum to the Likud concerning the setting up of more West Bank settlements (see story page 2), as a more probable partner in its drive for early elections. But Tehiya would also consider joining a Likud-led narrow coalition, an avenue which Prime Minister Shamir is said to prefer to early elections.

Shamir met with Foreign Minister Peres last night. Sources close to the foreign minister said that he had voiced Labour's indignation at the Likud's latest moves in the Knesset, especially the tabling of the proposal to grant pardons to members of the Jewish underground, which will also be submitted for a preliminary vote in the Knesset today but which has virtually no chance of passing.

Peres also reiterated Labour's threat, made at a party ministers' meeting this week, to leave the gov-

ernment if financial aid to the agricultural sector is not forthcoming in the very near future.

Knesset members from several factions have been hurrying back from abroad to take part in the crucial vote, in the wake of urgent calls from party whips.

The only MK who is not returning is Meir Wilner (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) who is in China.

Wilner's vote against the laws will thus be missing, but it will be offset by the lost vote of Kach MK Meir Kahane in favour. Kahane's appeal against a ban on his attendance at five plenum sessions was rejected yesterday in a dramatic plenum vote (see story on page 2).

Most estimates suggested that the two laws on conversion procedures would either end in a 58-58 tie vote, or go down by one vote.

In any event under Knesset Rules a tie means defeat.

The proposal to grant pardons to members of the Jewish underground underground still in prison is not expected to amass more than 30 votes, since several Likud MKs object to it, as does the Alignment.

Likud MK Dan Tichon, one of three Liberals in the faction who normally oppose religious coercion, told the *The Post* that he would vote for the two proposals on conversion procedures only if his vote ensured their passage. If he saw they would fail anyway, he would not support them, he said.

Tichon said that since he comes last on the list in a roll-call vote, he would know, by the time his turn came, which way to vote.

THE WRITER, who was once responsible in the Foreign Ministry for relations with the churches, finds himself - along with many Israelis - developing a growing resentment of Vatican policy. With the exception of the brief pontificate of John XXIII, the Holy See has for a long time shown little evidence of either soul-searching or enlightenment.

When the present pope was elected, there were many who predicted a change of pace. Here was a man who had lived and witnessed - outside the seclusion of the Basilica of St. Peter - the most despicable crimes ever perpetrated. For him, unlike his predecessors, Auschwitz and Treblinka were not remote, abstract sites and names, but supposedly meaningful stations in his own past. True, he was held to be conservative in the interpretation of his faith, but at the same time he was credited with kindness and understanding in his attitude toward others. Israelis and world Jewry hoped that a new era might be dawning in the relations between Judaism and the oldest and largest of the Christian churches, and that the experiment of good-will on which Pope John XXIII had embarked would be resumed and deepened by Karol Wojtyla.

The hope has not merely failed to materialize; there has been a clear regressive tendency both in inter-faith relations and in the attitude of the Vatican vis-à-vis Israel. It is with the latter aspect that these reflections are concerned, though it is probably inseparable from the former in the thinking of a pope who has entirely lived up to his reputation as an unwavering dogmatist. In fact, within his own church there is an ever-growing number of devout believers, including distinguished members of the clergy, who openly voice their

REHAVAM ZE'EV managed to cause quite an uproar with his proposal, last Friday, that the solution to the Jewish-Arab problem in Eretz Yisrael should be a transfer of the Arabs to outside the boundaries of the country. "A voluntary transfer," he added.

What followed was a totally irrelevant public debate. Ze'evi's left-wing and liberal opponents demanded his removal from directorship of the Museum and the cancellation of his emergency commission as a reserve brigadier-general. His right-wing supporters invoked Ben Katzeelson, Yitzhak Tabenkin (who at one time supported the idea of a transfer, if it were voluntary), and an IDF plan, apparently approved by Ben-Gurion in the mid-'50s, for conquering the West Bank and expelling its Arab inhabitants in the process.

But these are really all red herrings. The left-wingers and liberals are merely attacking a currently not very influential man (whose influence may now rise as a result of the unbridled attack on him), rather than a dangerous idea. The right-wingers are merely justifying an untenable position by invoking their ideological enemies from the Labour Movement, who have not infrequently been wrong.

A transfer of the Arab population of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is one of three theoretical op-

tions Israel will have if it decides to annex these territories - the other two being bi-nationalism and apartheid. Now, if Rehavam Ze'evi really means a "voluntary" (defined as "doing or being ready to do things willingly, without being compelled") transfer, then his idea is a non-starter.

It would probably be easier to get Jews to leave the country voluntarily than to get any large numbers of Arabs to leave. Around 400,000 Jews have left Israel since 1948 without any financial inducement, and despite the stigma that has come to be attached to *yerida*.

ANYONE WHO HAS Arab friends or acquaintances in the territories knows that they aren't going anywhere voluntarily; that they are attached to their land, the landscape and their people, and are convinced that the most important contribution they can make to their people's struggle is by staying put, no matter what. *Summus* (Steadfastness) is their slogan, which is taken very literally. Any comparison with the

Israel and the Vatican

Yohanan Meroz

disappointment with his rigid, intransigent rejection of compromise and change.

Israel has, over the years, invested serious efforts in reaching a *modus vivendi* with the Vatican in the face of its refusal to recognize the Jewish State, let alone establish relations with it. Israel has not only (and rightly) gone out of its way to meet every religious request, but also to afford all conceivable facilities to papal representatives and institutions in the country, despite the lack of anything remotely resembling reciprocity. Jerusalem, under the belated leadership of Teddy Kollek, and other towns and authorities have left no stone unturned in accommodating the Church of Rome, and many of its resident emissaries are, no doubt, conscious and appreciative of the courtesies and assistance extended to it.

In return, as it were, we got slaps in the face, of which the receptions granted to Arafat and Waldheim were the supreme, though by no means the only, instances. On two or three occasions audiences were arranged for Israeli

representatives, one of which this writer attended, but they were, at best courteous exercises of no consequence.

Israel will, of course, continue to show respect and consideration to Catholic believers, as to members of all confessional communities, and for that it requires no prompting from the pope. Israel has grown and developed during the nearly 40 years of its existence, and while it has certainly not attained all its objectives, it is not for want of relations with the Vatican.

The boot is on the other foot. The Church of Rome has every reason, for the sake of its moral standing and its professions of righteousness, to seek conciliation with the people it has so wronged over 2,000 years of crusades, bans, blood libels, discrimination and persecution by the Inquisition, culminating in its ostrich-like attitude during the Holocaust. As long as it does not remedy its ways on its own initiative, it should be disregarded, as it chooses to disregard us. The canonization of a pitiable num of Jewish descent, murdered by

the Nazis, can scarcely be regarded as an act of redemption.

Fortunately, the "divisions of the pope" are needed neither to advance nor to enforce peace between Israel and its neighbours.

We shall pursue our efforts to that end; we shall continue to welcome the interest and active assistance from anyone of whatever religious persuasion; including, of course, Catholicism, many of whose adherents have allied themselves to the rebirth of Israel and the cause of peace in the region.

If the Vatican desires to become a partner in that endeavour, which according to some of its encyclicals is a cherished objective, the road is open. The Jewish people are prepared to extend the hand of friendship to all, not excluding some who have in the past grievously, and in a most "un-Christian" manner, forsaken them, but they will not go down on their knees in supplication.

In the light of past experience and likely benefit in the future, the disproportionate - and at times humiliating - efforts made by Israel to promote relations with the Vatican should be discontinued. The Third World, China, the USSR and, of course, the Arab countries are far higher on our scale of priorities.

Pope John Paul II is no less aware than were his predecessors that Israel and the Jews are ready to open a new page; it is up to him and the Curia to live up to the honour of their commitment to conciliation and peace. If and when they reach that stage and tell us so, we shall give it every consideration. Until then, we have nothing more to say.

The writer is a former ambassador to Bonn.

THE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER

Much ado about nothing

Susan Hattis Rolef

way the Arab inhabitants acted in 1947-48 is wrong, and even then not all the population movement was voluntary. Let us at least be honest about that.

But even assuming, for the sake of argument, that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were prepared to depart voluntarily from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and even from Israel proper, where would they go? There is nobody willing to absorb them, within the Middle East, or anywhere else. And even without them there are still about a million unsettled Palestinian refugees living in camps.

However, there are circles in Israel, of which I do not believe Ze'evi to be a member, that are too cowardly to admit that what they are really after is a forced transfer, as advocated by Meir Kahane. These people use the term "voluntary transfer," but stretch it to include the occasional "pogromchik," like the one at Ramat Amich, and an

intensification of the humiliations, harassments and Kafkaesque administrative restrictions to which the Arab population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are subject - unofficially but very concretely.

THE MAIN RESULT of such a policy, if systematically implemented, would more likely be an increase in public disorder and acts of resistance than a mass exodus. All that would be achieved would be a further weakening of Israel's delicate democratic fibre and a major blow to its moral standing in the Western world.

Those inclined to mock the importance of "moral standing" should be reminded that Israel has fewer tangible assets to enable it to withstand the sort of ostracism to which South Africa is being subjected these days.

The real problem, therefore, is not that the idea of voluntary transfer is immoral or racist, but that it would be either totally ineffective or ruinous to Israel. And if anyone believes Israel can get away with a

forced transfer - i.e., the mass expulsion of the Arab inhabitants living west of the Jordan - he is living either in a ghetto totally sheltered from reality, or on another planet. The sooner people get it into their heads that Israel's only real options are withdrawal from most of the territories occupied in 1967 (despite the fact that Jews have a moral and historical right to live in all parts of Eretz Yisrael) or apartheid, the better.

As to Rehavam Ze'evi, he only proves the maxim that in Israel, old soldiers refuse to fade away. His left-wing and liberal critics would do better to leave him to direct his museum and concentrate on the implementation of the idea they themselves profess to hold: true integration of the Israeli Arabs into the country's society; improvement of the quality of life in the territories; defence of the human rights and dignity of the Arabs under occupation; and promotion of the peace process by means of an international conference and/or meetings with Palestinians with political clout.

Whether Ben Katzeelson, Yitzhak Tabenkin and others did or did not support the concept of a voluntary transfer or a population exchange 50 years ago, and whether the Mapai leadership did or did not have plans for a forced transfer 30 years ago, is really of no practical or moral importance today.

READERS' LETTERS

JEWISH AGENCY COMPTROLLER

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - On June 23, you carried a summary of some of the findings included in the annual report of the comptroller of the Jewish Agency, mainly concerning the work of the Immigration and Absorption Department, with special reference to the absorption of Ethiopian olim. As chairman of the board of governors committees for the comptroller's reports, I must stress that the comptroller's summation of this very special operation was far from negative, as your readers might have deduced.

Thus, in her summary, the comptroller stated: "While our approach to the review of this special operation was necessarily critical, as this is our proper function... it should be stressed that the department showed itself capable of overcoming many of its administrative weaknesses when it was faced with an absorption challenge of major proportions and special difficulties... which called for the devotion of staff to the task on hand..."

Also, as regards the comptroller's general findings concerning the department as presented in the report, the committee requested and re-

ceived at its recent meeting a follow-up report both from the department and from the comptroller. The follow-up findings, which could not yet be incorporated in the report as published, indicate substantial progress towards streamlining the department's work, general improvement in the controls, and measures taken to correct deficiencies and achieve economies.

While the department is responsible for only a limited part of the absorption process, essential elements of absorption, such as housing and employment being outside its scope and within the responsibility of government, it must make the best possible use of its facilities for initial absorption.

Indeed, it is the committee's role, on behalf of the board of governors, to see to it that lessons are learned from the comptroller's findings in this and other areas, and better administration achieved. An example of such committee action is shown on pp. 225-226 of the report.

MENDEL KAPLAN
Chairman,
Committee on
the Comptroller's Reports
Jerusalem.

FREE CHOICE

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - I keep wondering how a leading Israeli politician can appeal to the U.S. government not to grant refugee status to Russian Jews who wish to go to the U.S. Can a leader of Israel ask the U.S. or any other country for a less liberal approach towards Jews in distress - and this in view of the way the U.S. and other so-called civilized Western nations behaved towards Jewish refugees during World War II?

Whether we like it or not, the main aim of Soviet Jews is to get out of the Russian paradise. Everything else is of secondary importance. Do we have the moral right to oppose their order of priorities? Their way of life is at stake, not our ambitions.

Of course, we all would like all Soviet Jews who leave Russia to come here and stay here. But those who don't choose Israel spontaneously - for whatever reason - will become like all other Jews in the free world, most of whom support Israel, but come on aliyah only in trickles. And nobody can force them either.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY COSTS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - In his letter of June 15, the Ambassador of France, Mr. Alain Pierret, concentrates on the economic benefits of nuclear energy to France. But what about the security costs?

Imagine a Chernobyl-size disaster at a nuclear energy plant located, say, near Beersheba. How quickly could the residents of Beersheba, Dimona, Arad and nearby kibbutzim, moshavim, etc., be evacuated? How long would it take for the major population centres of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv or Haifa, to become affected by radiation?

Are there plans for creating reserves of uncontaminated foodstuffs or would emergency imports have to be organized? At what cost would other countries supply us with food in an emergency? Could we rely on France? How long do contaminated regions have to be isolated before the effects of radiation recede - five years? 10 years? 50 years? Longer? It couldn't happen here? Why not?

Minister Shalal is quoted (June 5, 1986) as stating that nuclear power stations producing electricity will be functioning in Israel shortly after the year 2000 - less than 20 years from now!

MEL MARCUS
Ramat Hasharon.

KOSHER FOOD

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, - Kosher food means fit food. For hundreds of years, kosher food equaled wholesome food. Historically, Jews did not eat shellfish or pig. Aside from esoteric reasons, pork and shellfish were considered unfit for health reasons.

In recent times, the addition of artificial preservatives, sweeteners, colourings, herbicides and pesticides and greater medical knowledge should require a re-evaluation of what is kosher.

Today, in the U.S., it is questionable whether many kosher-labelled foods are either traditional or healthy. For instance, Heinz kosher pickles contain FD&C yellow No. 5 food colouring. Does the food colouring make this a fit or traditional product? Rokaach bottles "imitation chicken fat." Is this made with traditional ingredients?

Manischewitz chicken soup contains monosodium glutamate. Manischewitz low-calorie borscht contains saccharin. Near the word "saccharin" on the label is printed: "Use of this product may be hazardous to your health. This product contains saccharin which has been determined to cause cancer in laboratory animals."

Should this product be considered *treif* or *unfit*? Should the Union of Orthodox Rabbis give its seal of approval to this product?

Moses Maimonides wrote in *The Guide for the Perplexed*: "The general object of the [Jewish] law is twofold: the well-being of the soul and the well-being of the body."

In conclusion, kosher laws need to be updated in order to preserve the spirit of the laws. If kosher foods are to have appeal now and in the 21st century, the definition of kosher must be updated. Kosher foods must be free of harmful ingredients. This includes anything that is artificial (colourings, preservatives or sweeteners) or is thought to cause cancer or promote other diseases.

Foods with the kosher label should be in the forefront of the health food industry.

PETER SINGER
San Diego, California.

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